

## LETTER

FROM THE

## SUPERINTENDENT OF THE CAPITOL EXTENSION,

TO THE

*Chairman of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, in  
relation to the Dome and Porticos of the Capitol.*

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MARCH 5, 1860.—Motion to print referred to the Committee on Printing.

MARCH 6, 1860.—Report in favor of printing the usual number submitted, considered, and  
agreed to.

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OFFICE UNITED STATES CAPITOL EXTENSION AND

NEW DOME OF THE CAPITOL,

Washington, February 29, 1860.

SIR: I have the honor, in answer to your letter of the 8th instant, received on the 13th instant, transmitting the resolutions of the United States Senate of the 1st instant, in relation to the Dome and Porticoes of the Capitol, to make the following statement:

In order to set at rest the question of the stability of the dome, I have calculated the pressure which the new dome will exert upon the foundations; have compared the weights of the old and new domes, and the pressures per square foot which the old dome exerted, with that which the new dome will exert. The pressure, per square foot, which will be exerted by the new dome, has been compared with the crushing weight of the materials of which the walls are built. The calculations and comparisons are appended to this report, and are marked A.

It will be found, upon consultation of the appendix, that the pressure which will be exerted by the new dome upon the foundation walls is one fifty-sixth of the force necessary to crush the materials of which the wall is built, and that the pressure exerted by it upon the smallest or weakest section of the supporting walls, is less than one-eleventh of the crushing force of the materials. These figures are obtained, taking everything in the most unfavorable state for the dome; that is, taking the crushing force of brick at the smallest number given, and the weight of the dome as great as it can be under the worst circumstances.

I consider, therefore, that there is no doubt of the stability of the dome.

To show how insignificant the weight of the new dome will be compared to that of a masonry dome of the same dimensions, I have, from its weight, calculated the height of a cylindrical masonry wall of the same internal diameter as the rotunda, and five feet thick, which will weigh as much as the whole dome. Starting from the cornice of the rotunda, as seen from the principal story floor, the wall would be less than sixty feet high.

The top of the iron work now erected is higher than this wall would be.

The progress of the work upon the dome has not been as slow as at first sight it appears to have been. The whole weight of the iron work of the dome is, in round numbers, thirty-seven hundred tons. Nineteen hundred tons, or more than half of this iron, has already been purchased, and nearly all of it has been erected. It is impossible to go on with this part of the work very rapidly, because a great deal of it is inside work, in small pieces, and the derrick now in use ought not to be moved until that work is completed. Much more show could have been made by moving the derrick now up, and by commencing the erection of the upper frame-work at once; but that course would not have been economical; in fact, it would have retarded the completion of the work.

There appears, therefore, to have been no necessity for hurrying the detailed drawings of the upper part of the dome, and I do not think their completion would have expedited the completion of the work.

In addition to the work already mentioned, a cylindrical brick-wall, twenty-seven feet high, and about two and a half feet thick, and ninety-four feet in internal diameter has been built above the old rotunda walls, which is connected with the outer stone-wall, above the roof. Upon this wall the new dome is to rest.

I find, upon consultation of the files of this office, that the old dome was taken down, and the derrick and temporary roof erected between March 3, the date of the first appropriation, and October 3, 1855. The brick-wall below the iron brackets was finished on April 14, 1856, and the first bracket was placed on March 18, 1857.

It follows, therefore, that in less than in three years, nearly nineteen hundred tons of iron have been cast, transported, hoisted, and set in place in the dome. This is an average of more than six hundred tons per annum, or more than two tons for each working day; and when it is remembered that, in addition to the labor of hoisting, nearly every piece of iron required carefully fitting, before it could be placed, I think it will be acknowledged that the progress of the dome has not been slow.

The original design laid before the committees of Congress was altered, as appears in the papers accompanying a report of the Secretary of War, dated March 5, 1856; which report is published in House of Representatives, 34th Congress, 1st session, Mis. Doc. No. 65. The reasons for the change appear to have been considered good by Congress, as an appropriation of \$100,000 for the continuance of the work was made August 18, 1856, and another of \$500,000, March 3, 1857.

Another change has been made by the architect, during the past



year, which, in his opinion, became necessary, because the figure of freedom and its pedestal, designed by Crawford, for the top of the dome, are larger in all respects than the figure and pedestal, which were drawn upon the altered design referred to above. On this account he altered the outlines of the lantern, and the curve of the cupola, and this alteration has brought the dome nearly back to the original design. The coincidence would have been more striking were it not that the diameter of the lower part (that now erected) had been increased in the first altered design, as explained in the document quoted above.

The designs for the interior of the upper part of the dome have also been changed, and photographic copies of the drawings showing this interior finish in the first and second altered drawings are transmitted with this.

These alterations have been approved by the War Department.

I cannot find that the cost of the work, nor the time of its completion has been affected by these changes.

I transmit with this a sketch showing the designs, as compared with each other, drawn to the same scale, and the committee can judge of the importance of the changes.

I also transmit photographic copies of the drawings of the dome, as originally presented to the committees of Congress, of that referred to in the congressional document quoted above, and of that altered to suit the Crawford statue; also vertical sections showing the interior finish previously referred to.

The dome can be brought back to the form and dimensions of the first altered design, without other loss to the United States than that arising from the rejection of the drawings, which have been made at considerable expense, and in great detail. The completion of the dome would be retarded by the change just as long a time as will be required to make the detailed drawings. In any event a modification of that part of the design, which is intended for what is technically termed the lantern, would necessarily be made on account of the size of the Crawford statue.

My own opinion is that it will be conducive to the interests of the United States to carry out the design last made; and I base my opinion upon the fact that this design is no more expensive than either of the others—that it is suitable in dimensions to the statue which is to surmount the finished dome, and that the work will be sooner finished by its prosecution.

The correspondence in relation to the contracts, bargains, proposals, and bids is appended to this report, and is marked B. The statement of the payments made from the appropriations is also made, and is in the same appendix.

From this statement it appears that the sum of \$301,860 41 has been expended, and the results have been the demolition of the old dome; the erection of the temporary roof; the procural of the necessary hoisting apparatus, scaffolding, tools, &c.; the erection of a cylindrical brick wall twenty-eight feet high, about two and a half feet thick, and ninety-four feet in internal diameter, and the purchase, erection, and painting of nineteen hundred tons of iron.

The balance on hand and in the treasury is \$398,145 59, and there remains the sum of \$245,000 to be appropriated to fill the estimate made for the completion of the work. This gives the sum of \$643,145 59, which may be considered available to complete the work within the original estimate.

With this amount about eighteen hundred tons of iron are to be purchased, fitted, and erected upon the dome. The necessary additional hoisting apparatus and scaffolding are to be procured, erected, and taken down after the completion of the work, and the whole dome is to be thoroughly painted. The bronze statue is to be cast and erected. The temporary roof which now covers the rotunda is to be taken down, and another is to be erected sixty feet higher. This must be taken down also after the completion of the work.

It will be seen that the iron hereafter to be furnished will cost erected, including the furnishing, erection, and removal of the hoisting apparatus, and the removal of the temporary roof, seven cents per pound, amounting to \$282,240; or, as the weight may be somewhat greater than the calculated weight, it will be safe to say... \$300,000

The estimate for the painting is..... 20,000

The bronze statue, masonry, plastering, pay of architect, clerks and draughtsmen, superintendence, office rent, and freight for three years..... 75,000

Outstanding bills, and amount necessary to pay for work already ordered..... 100,000

Alteration of roof of old building to accommodate the lowest section of the dome, and making new roof where necessary..... 50,000

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545,000

Ten per cent. for unforeseen contingencies..... 54,500

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Total cost of completion of dome..... 599,500

Amount on hand..... 398,141

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Amount to be appropriated..... 201,355

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This would make the cost of the dome completed \$901,355—the amount of the original estimate being \$945,000.

I have no doubt that the estimate above given will more than cover the expense of the work.

The original estimate was based upon the prices paid for various iron work in the Capitol extension, or an average of 6.3 cents per pound. The prices hitherto paid for the dome iron work have varied from 9 to  $2\frac{1}{4}$  cents per pound, making the average 5.8 cents per pound. The cost of scaffolding, hoisting apparatus, painting, and contingent expenses is not included. The price to be paid for the remainder of the iron, including scaffolding and hoisting, is seven cents per pound; and, supposing that as much iron will be bought hereafter as has already been purchased, (which supposition is not far from the truth,) the average price of the whole of the iron work will be 6.4 cents per pound, differing very little from the original estimate. In this calcu-

lation the painting, bronze statue, and contingent expenses, consisting of pay of architect, clerks, draughtsmen, receiver, superintendence, and office rent, have not been included.

Copies of all of the correspondence on file in this office, in relation to the column shafts of the Capitol Extension are herewith transmitted, marked C. The correspondence is voluminous, but the history of the whole question cannot be ascertained without it.

It appears that on January 17, 1852, a contract was entered into between the United States and Rice, Baird & Heebner, of Philadelphia, for furnishing the marble of the exterior of the Capitol Extension from quarries near Lee, Massachusetts. In this contract it was specified that the blocks of the column shafts were not to be less than four feet in height.

On February 20, 1854, Congress, by joint resolution, authorized a modification of this contract; and on March 30, 1854, in obedience to this law, a contract was entered into between the United States and Rice, Baird & Heebner, in which it was specified that the contractors should "deliver, for the one hundred columns of the exterior porticoes, as many monolithic shafts as their quarry may prove capable of furnishing, and the remainder of the whole number required in two blocks each, one of which to form two-thirds of the whole length of each shaft." The contractors were to be paid "at the rate of fourteen hundred dollars for each monolithic column shaft for the exterior porticoes, and eleven hundred dollars for each shaft delivered in two pieces, as above specified."

These contracts are printed in House of Representatives Ex. Doc. No. 143, 34th Congress, 1st session, the first on page 103, and the second on page 114.

Under these two contracts all of the marble hitherto used for the exterior of the Capitol extension has been delivered. As none of the column shafts were needed, none were delivered; but a correspondence commenced in 1857, between Captain M. C. Meigs, Superintendent of the Capitol Extension, and the contractors, on the subject. It soon appeared from this correspondence that the Lee quarries could not furnish the columns as they are required in the supplemental contract, and the contractors wished to fall back upon the original contract, which allowed them to furnish the columns in pieces not exceeding four feet in height, so far as the dimensions of the blocks are concerned, but were not willing to take the price which the original contract gave. This proposition is contained in a letter from the contractor to Captain Meigs, dated November 4, 1857. Captain Meigs declined to consent to this arrangement, on the ground that the original contract was superseded, so far as the columns are concerned, by the supplemental one.

On May 22, 1858, Mr. Heebner, one of the contractors, offered, as a member of the firm, or on his individual account, "to deliver the columns of Italian marble, in all respects as specified in the contract of March 30, 1854." Captain Meigs recommended the acceptance of this proposition. He was directed by the department to visit such quarries in the United States as were likely to be capable of furnishing the columns; made the visit, and, on September 18, 1858, reported, as the result of his inspection of the quarries, that it was his "opinion that

the quickest and best mode of procuring the shafts for the porticoes is to accept the offer of Messrs. Rice, Baird & Heebner to deliver them in single blocks" of Italian marble, in accordance with the terms of their contract of March 30, 1854, as it was his belief that the Lee quarry could not furnish them. The department did not concur in this opinion; and Captain Meigs was directed to prepare an advertisement for proposals for delivering the columns in monoliths, and in blocks not exceeding four feet in height. An advertisement was accordingly issued, dated September 30, 1858, and on December 18, 1858, the bids were transmitted to the department for its action. The contractors, in a letter dated December 3, 1858, protested against the award of the contract to other parties while their contract remained in force.

On March 29, 1859, Captain Meigs was directed by the department to take steps to determine whether the contractors were prepared to continue the supply of marble for the Capitol to the fulfillment of their contract. In an answer to the department, dated April 6, 1859, to which your attention is respectfully called, as it gives much information on the subject of the columns, he gives his views on the whole question, and suggests that he should be directed to visit the Lee quarry. He was accordingly directed to visit the quarry; made the visit, and on May 10, 1859, reported to the department that the contractors had no prospect of continuing the supply of marble to the fulfillment of their contract, so far as regards the column shafts. He further reported that they could not, in a reasonable time, supply from the Lee quarry the column shafts even in six pieces, and at the same time furnish the other large quantity of marble needed for the building. But he was of opinion that, if the column shafts could be obtained elsewhere, they would be able, in other respects, to complete their contract, (which, hitherto, they had carried out energetically and ably,) and refers the department to his letter of April 6, 1859. He refers to the offer of the contractors to furnish Italian marble instead of Lee marble, and to the decision of the department that American marble must be used to carry out the terms of the contracts. He also reports that he visited Mr. Conolly's quarry, near Baltimore; states that is a strong and he believes a durable stone, but that it does not come up to the requirements of the advertisement of September 30, 1858, in color and grain. He thought that the quarry was capable of furnishing one hundred monolithic shafts. He regrets that the stone is not of such beauty as to enable him to heartily recommend its adoption, and states that, if it is determined to use American marble, it is not probable that any better will be found, or any quarry that can furnish it so quickly.

Upon this letter, the Secretary of War indorses that the contract with Messrs. Rice, Baird & Heebner, will be declared forfeited, and Captain Meigs will contract with Mr. Connolly for monolithic columns of his marble. This is dated May 11, 1859. On the same letter is an indorsement by the President of the United States, as follows: "Let the order of the Secretary of War, of the 11th instant, be suspended for further consideration until after his return from Virginia." Dated May 19, 1859.

On May 14, 1859, Captain Meigs informed the department that notice of the forfeiture of the contract had been given to the contractors, and

asked upon what terms he should contract with Mr. Connolly, stating that he considered Mr. Connolly's price too high, as given in his bid, made in compliance with the advertisement of September 30, 1858. On May 21, 1859, he was directed by the Acting Secretary of War to visit all of the quarries from which proposals for the monolithic shafts had been received, and to examine any other quarries which he thought might furnish them, "the object being to obtain the fullest information before deciding upon the questions relating to the supply of marble for the columns." In obedience to this order, Captain Meigs visited seventeen quarries, and on the 22d of June last reported to the department. In this report he states that "enough is known, however, to show that it is possible to obtain from several American quarries monolithic shafts which can be used for the Capitol Extension, though inferior in beauty to the Italian." He also states that he had received a letter from the contractors, in which they ask to be allowed to furnish the column shafts according to the terms of their contract, substituting marble from some other quarry or quarries for that of Lee, the marble to be furnished to be approved by the officer in charge of the Capitol Extension. He advises that this proposition be accepted, and that six months be allowed them, within which they were to furnish a satisfactory specimen, with probable evidence that the quarry will supply one hundred monoliths, of quality equal to the approved specimen, and in a reasonable time.

This recommendation was approved by the Secretary of War, and on the 30th of June last the contractors were notified of this approval, and that in accordance with it, six months from July 1, 1859, were allowed them within which they might furnish a satisfactory specimen of American marble, with probable evidence that the quarry will supply one hundred monolithic shafts of quality equal to that of the approved specimens, and in a reasonable time.

In accordance with this understanding, the contractors have deposited six specimens of marble in this office, from quarries which they state are capable of furnishing the monolithic columns. The specimens have been examined, and were reported upon from this office on January 7 last.

The contractors, in a letter dated January 5 last, state that the shortest time required to obtain the monoliths from the quarries named, is from four to six years, and that required to obtain them from the quarry which furnishes what I consider the best specimen, is from five to seven years.

These times are too great; and if the estimate of the contractor is correct—and I believe it to be so—it is apparent that the Capitol Extension cannot be completed for eight or nine years. If the contractors are permitted to procure the marble where they please—that is, if they are allowed to get them from Italy, should they choose that course as the most conducive to their own interests—they can furnish them in eighteen months, and the building can be completed in three years. But as the contract under which they are now acting has been decided by the proper authority to call for American marble, further legislation will be required.

The desirability of the near completion of the Capitol Extension

requires no discussion; it is too apparent to admit of a doubt. The economy of bringing the work to a close as soon as possible is nearly as apparent, for the large contingent expenses of a work of such magnitude cannot be materially diminished until it is completed. These expenses amount to nearly sixteen thousand dollars per annum; and I believe that the cost of the building will be increased at least \$100,000 if the time required to procure the columns is to be from five to seven years instead of eighteen months.

If Congress should legislate on this subject, it would, I respectfully submit, be advisable to appropriate in the same law the amount necessary to pay for the columns. This amount is \$140,000. The appropriation would not increase the cost of the building; it could not be touched to pay for anything but the columns; and it would enable the contractors to give their orders for all of the columns at once, as they would be certain that they would be paid for them on their delivery.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Captain of Topographical Engineers,*

*In charge of Capitol Extension and New Dome of Capitol.*

Hon. J. D. BRIGHT,

*Chairman Com. on Public Buildings and Grounds, U. S. Senate.*

#### A.

#### *Investigation of the stability of the sustaining walls of the new dome of the United States capitol.*

Weight of iron work already erected .....	4,261,421 lbs.
Weight of iron work to be erected above that now on the dome.....	2,993,744 “
Weight of iron work to be erected below that now on the dome .....	344,600 “
Total weight of iron work of the whole dome.....	7,599,765 “
Ten per cent. to cover all differences between calculated and actual weights.....	759,976 “
Weight of masonry above the smallest section of the sustaining wall.....	5,214,000 “
Total weight to be supported at the smallest section of the sustaining walls.....	13,573,741 “

Area of smallest section of the sustaining wall:

$$50'.5 \times 2 \times 3.1416 \times 4' = 1269.2 \text{ square feet.}$$

Therefore, the pressure on the square foot at the smallest section of the sustaining wall is 13,573,741 lbs. divided by 1269.2, or 10,691 lbs.

The masonry, of which this smallest section is a part, is faced with Aquia creek cut sandstone, and backed by a brick wall laid in hydraulic lime mortar. It is strongly tied by wrought iron bands, and is a very

excellent piece of work. It extends about four feet below the smallest section above-mentioned, and at that point rests upon the old walls of the rotunda. The additional weight due to its extension below the smallest section is 816,375 lbs., which, added to 13,573,741 lbs., gives 14,390,116 lbs. as the pressure which the new dome will exert upon the wall of the rotunda after its completion.

The area of the smallest section of this wall is  $311 \times 5' = 1,555$  square feet. Therefore the pressure per square foot exerted by the new dome upon the smallest section of the old walls will be 14,390,116 lbs. divided by 1,555, or 9,254 lbs. This is at the level of the top of the balustrade of the main building.

Below this level the horizontal section of the walls which sustain the dome is rectangular, and the circle of the rotunda and four small circles, each ten feet in diameter, have been taken from the area of the rectangle. Other walls connect with the sustaining walls, and increase their strength materially. They are not, however, taken into consideration.

At the level of the top of the balustrade of the main building this rectangle measures 107 feet by 102 feet, and the rotunda is 98 feet in diameter. At the floor of the principal story it measures 108 feet by 101 feet, and the rotunda is 97 feet in diameter. At the basement story it measures 105 feet by 101 feet, and the rotunda is 86 feet in diameter; and at the level of the cellar floor the foundation walls are 102 feet by 98 feet, the rotunda being 84 feet in diameter. Below this point the walls spread out, and the pressure per square foot is diminished.

The following table shows the pressure per square foot which will be exerted upon the sustaining walls by the new dome, at the various levels indicated, giving the area of the sustaining walls, and the weights to be sustained at those levels:

	Area of sustaining walls.	Total weight.	Pressure per square foot
	<i>Sq. feet.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Foundation or cellar floor.....	3,924	51,292,253	13,071
Basement floor.....	3,322	44,770,853	13,477
Principal story floor.....	3,204	36,694,928	11,453
Level of top of balustrade of main building, being the top of the walls common to the new and old domes .....	1,555	14,390,116	8,765
Smallest section of new wall below new dome.....	1,269	13,573,741	10,691

In the old dome the weight of masonry above the smallest section was.....	9,337,286 lbs.
Weight of metal work.....	29,934 "
Weight of timber, plastering, railing, glass, and iron clamps .....	2,486,364 "
Total weight of old dome above smallest section of sustaining walls.....	<u>11,853,584 "</u>

Therefore the vertical pressure per square foot exerted by the old dome upon the smallest section of the old walls was 11,853,584 lbs. divided by 1,555, or 7,623 lbs.

The following table shows the pressure per square foot which was exerted upon the sustaining walls by the old dome, at the various levels indicated, giving the area of the sustaining walls, and the weights to be sustained at those levels:

	Area of sustain- ing walls.	Total weight.	Pressure per sq. foot.
	<i>Square feet.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>	<i>Pounds.</i>
Foundation, or cellar .....	3,924	48,756,221	12,425
Basement floor .....	3,322	42,234,821	12,713
Principal story floor.....	3,204	34,158,896	10,661
Level of top of balustrade of main building, being top of the walls common to the new and old domes.....	1,555	11,853,584	7,623

The following table gives a comparison of the pressures exerted upon the sustaining walls by both domes:

	New dome.	Old dome.	Difference.
	Pounds per square foot.		
Cellar floor.....	13,071	12,425	646
Basement floor.....	13,477	12,713	764
Principal story floor.....	11,453	10,661	792
Level of top of balustrade of main building, being top of walls common to the new and old domes.....	9,254	7,623	1,631

The substitution of the new dome for the old one will, therefore, increase the pressure upon the foundation walls, at the level of the cellar floor, from 48,756,221 pounds to 51,292,253 pounds; an increase of 646 pounds per square foot, or about 5.2 per cent.

At the highest point of the walls common to both domes, the pressure per square foot is increased 1,631 pounds, an increase of about twenty-one per cent.

The foundation walls are formed of large bluestone, laid in lime mortar. I have examined them, and do not find any crack or sign of settlement. They are excellent walls.

The basement walls are of Aquia creek cut sandstone.

The principal story walls, or the walls of the rotunda, as high as the interior cornice, are faced on the inside with Aquia creek sandstone, and are backed with brick. There are some cracks in the interior facing, but they are old, and, in my opinion, have no effect upon the stability of the work.

Above the roof of the main building, the exterior of the dome wall is faced with cut Aquia creek sandstone, backed with brick. This



brick backing has been built to support the new dome, as has been previously stated. It is an excellent wall.

The materials mentioned above have the following crushing weights to the square foot, viz :

	<i>Maximum.</i>	<i>Minimum.</i>
*Aquia creek sandstone.....	755,280 lbs.	
*Brick .....	1,849,248 lbs.	360,000 lbs.
*Brick and mortar, two years old .....	339,120 lbs.	192,000 lbs.
Brick (Morin's experiments).....	307,277 lbs.	122,911 lbs.

Now, the greatest pressure which will be exerted by the new dome is at the basement, or crypt floor, where it will be 13,477 pounds per square foot. The stone which is to bear this weight requires a pressure of 755,280 pounds per square foot to crush it, or about fifty-six times the weight of the dome.

The pressure which will be exerted by the new dome upon the walls having the smallest section is 10,691 pounds per square foot. This, under the most unfavorable circumstances, is less than one eleventh of the crushing force of the materials of which the walls are composed.

As it has become an axiom with engineers that one tenth of the crushing load can be safely borne by the walls of the edifice, it follows that the walls will be entirely safe after the erection of the new dome.

Below are given the pressures per square foot upon the foundations of the Girard College, Philadelphia, and sundry European domes, compared with the pressure upon the foundations of the dome on the Capitol, as stated above. These quantities are taken from the report already quoted :

Girard College, pounds per square foot.....	13,440
St. Peter's, Rome, pounds per square foot.....	33,330
St. Paul's, London, pounds per square foot.....	39,450
St. Genevieve, Paris, pounds per square foot.....	60,000
Toussaint, Angers, pounds per square foot.....	90,000
New dome on the U. S. Capitol, pounds per square foot.....	13,477

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Captain Topographical Engineers in Charge of New Dome.*

*February 24, 1860.*

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\* Taken from a report of Captain Meigs, dated March 8, 1856. The Aquia creek sandstone crushing weight was determined by Professor Walter R. Johnston, in 1852; that for brick by the Capitol extension commission on building materials in 1856; and that for brick and mortar by Captain Meigs in 1856.

## APPENDIX B.

*Correspondence in relation to the contracts, bargains, proposals, and bids, with statement of payments on account of the new dome of the Capitol.*

July 18, 1855.

GENTLEMEN: There are thirty-six columns to be cast for the dome of the Capitol.

They will be two feet eight and one half inches diameter and twenty-seven feet long, deeply fluted Corinthian columns; the shafts cast in one piece, the caps and bases to slip over the shafts; the foliage to be attached to the bell by screws or rivets.

I shall be glad to receive offers from you for them delivered in Washington.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain of Engineers in Charge.*

MERRICK & SONS, *Philadelphia.*

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The following named parties were also invited to submit proposals for these columns:

J. M. Reed, (of D. D. Badger & Co.,) New York, N. Y.

Morris, Tasker & Morris, Philadelphia, Pa.

A. & W. Denmead & Son, Baltimore, Md.

Poole & Hunt, Baltimore, Md.

Bement, Dougherty & Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

J. R. Jones, Harrisburg, Pa.

Janes, Beebe & Co., New York, N. Y.

Hayward, Bartlett & Co., Baltimore, Md.

R. P. Parrot, Cold Spring, N. Y.

Betts, Pusey & Co., Wilmington, Del.

Anderson, Delaney & Co., Richmond, Va.

Colwell & Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

Phil. T. Ellicott, Washington, D. C.

J. P. Morris & Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

The following is an abstract of the offers received:

*Schedule of bids for furnishing cast-iron columns for new dome of the United States Capitol.*

Bidders.	Date of offer.	Price.	Remarks.
	1855.		
Anderson, Delaney & Co.....	Aug. 21	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound.....	
Bement, Dougherty & Thomas.....	July 31	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound.....	
Betts, Pusey & Co.....	Aug. 7	3 $\frac{9}{10}$ cents per pound.....	
Do.....	Sept. 8	\$77 per ton.....	
D. D. Badger & Co.....	Sept. 10	5 cents per pound.....	
Colwell & Co.....	Sept. 3	4 cents per pound.....	
A. & W. Denmead & Son.....	July 25	.....	Declined to offer.
P. T. Ellicott.....	July 28	4 $\frac{7}{16}$ cents per pound.....	
Hayward, Bartlett & Co.....	.....do.....	5 cents per pound.....	
Janes, Beebe & Co.....	Aug. 17	.....do.....	
J. R. Jones.....	July 25	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound.....	
J. P. Morris & Co.....	Aug. 2	.....	Declined to offer.
Morris, Tasker & Morris.....	July 21	\$1,250 per column.....	
Merrick & Sons.....	.....do.....	5 cents per pound for columns, and 8 cents for foliage, &c.	
R. P. Parrott.....	Aug. 6	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound.....	
Do.....	Aug. 11	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound.....	
Poole & Hunt.....	July 28	3 $\frac{9}{10}$ cents per pound.....	
Do.....	Sept. 11	3 $\frac{4}{10}$ cents per pound.....	

The offer of Messrs. Betts, Pusey & Co., of August 7, and that of Messrs. Pool & Hunt, of July 28, being the same, viz: 3 $\frac{9}{10}$  cents per pound; a letter dated September 5, was addressed to each of these firms, inviting another proposal. In reply, Messrs. Betts, Pusey & Co. submitted their offer of September 8, to execute the work at \$77 per ton of 2,240 pounds, (being 3 $\frac{9}{10}$  cents per pound;) and Messrs. Poole & Hunt, in a letter dated September 13, offered to do it at 3 $\frac{4}{10}$  cents per pound. Messrs. Poole & Hunt were accordingly awarded the work by Captain M. C. Meigs, in a letter dated September 13, 1855.

AUGUST 22, 1856.

DEAR SIR: I shall need some heavy castings for the dome, of forms not very complicated. At what prices can you probably make them. To be delivered in the dock in Washington within two months, exclusive of the cost of patterns.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,  
Captain Engineers.

COLWELL & Co., Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, *August 23, 1856.*

DEAR SIR: We have your favor of 22d instant.

With our present orders we could not undertake the castings of which you speak, and deliver in time for you.

But if you have any heavy work of easy patterns to be made during the winter, we should be glad to hear from you.

Will any part of the late appropriation be applied to pipes? We should like to have an order for winter work.

Yours truly,

COLWELL & CO.

M. C. MEIGS, Esq., *Washington.*

AUGUST 23, 1856.

DEAR SIR: Your letter of 21st is received. We have some heavy casting to make for the dome. At what price can you deliver them, including or excluding patterns.

They are of simple forms and will be quite heavy.

I have also some gutters to cast, which I wish speedily done for the Capitol Extension. I should like a bid from you. The work is large, and the patterns will be rather expensive. Will you examine the drawings in this office and make an offer?

Respectfully,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain Engineers.*

POOLE & HUNT, *Baltimore.*

BALTIMORE, *August 25, 1856.*

DEAR SIR: We have your favor of August 23, inclosing check for four hundred and sixty-eight dollars and eighty-three cents in payment for castings for dome, we return you the vouchers duly signed.

We will examine the drawings you refer to in a day or two.

Yours respectfully,

POOLE & HUNT.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,

*In charge Ex. U. S. Capitol, &c., Washington.*

*September 19, 1856.*

DEAR SIR: Your last offer for cable iron was at 3.80 cents per pound, delivered in Washington.

At that price, be good enough to deliver—

$1\frac{1}{4}$	tons cable iron,	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$\Theta$	} Warranted to stand cable proof.
1	do	4"	$\times 1\frac{1}{2}$ "	
2	do	4"	$\times 2\frac{3}{4}$ "	
$1\frac{1}{4}$	do	8"	$\times 1\frac{5}{8}$ "	
$1\frac{1}{4}$	do	8"	$\times 1\frac{7}{8}$ "	

This iron is for bands passing through inner and outer ends of brackets of dome.

Very respectfully,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain engineer.*

MESSRS. MORRIS & TANNER,  
*Tredegar works, Richmond, Virginia.*

As there will be pretty large orders for the dome, perhaps to secure them, you may be willing to make a lower offer.

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TREDEGAR ROLLING MILLS,  
*Richmond, September 20, 1856.*

DEAR SIR: We have yours of yesterday's date, and have entered the order you are so good as to send us, with the exception of the  $8 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ , and  $8 \times \frac{7}{8}$ , for which we have no rolls, nor do we think you can obtain it of rolled iron, as we have tried in every direction. We can make it seven inches wide with the same strength of section by increasing the thickness; or if you could wait about six weeks, we would go to the expense of making a pair rolls for it, though they would cost about seven hundred and fifty dollars, as we are anxious to fill your orders.

Our contract for cable the present year is at three dollars and seventy-five cents, and if you will send us your orders, they shall be filled at that price delivered at Washington.

Most respectfully,

MORRIS & TANNER.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,  
*U. S. Corps Engineers, Washington.*

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[Extract.]

*September 22, 1856.*

DEAR SIR: The  $8'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$  and the  $8'' \times \frac{7}{8}''$  iron will suit as well, if equivalent section  $7''$  wide.

Say  $7'' \times 1\frac{1}{4}''$  and  $7'' \times 1''$ .

Respectfully,

M. C. MEIGS, *Captain Engineers.*

MESSRS. MORRIS & TANNER,  
*Richmond, Va.*

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MY DEAR SIR: I understand that you make hot-pressed nuts largely. I shall want a quantity for the new dome of the Capitol which is to be of cast iron, and would be pleased to know your prices (cash).

The sizes I need at present are  $1\frac{1}{2}''$  and  $2\frac{1}{4}''$  hexagons.

Respectfully your obedient,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain Engineer.*

SOLOMON ANDREWS, Esq.,  
*Perth Amboy, New Jersey.*

MAYOR'S OFFICE,  
*City of Perth Amboy, New Jersey.*

DEAR SIR: Yours as to nuts for dome of Capitol received.

I am only making square nuts of the sizes in the inclosed circular. Should they answer your purpose, I should be happy to furnish you at  $6\frac{1}{2}$  cents per pound, delivered in New York.

Yours, respectfully,

SOLOMON ANDREWS.

M. C. MEIGS, Esq.

SEPTEMBER 24, 1856.

DEAR SIR: Please ascertain the price at which you can furnish a quantity of hot-pressed hexagon nuts, of large size, say for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  and  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inch bolts.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain Engineers.*

CAMPBELL & COYLE, *Washington.*

WASHINGTON CITY, *October 8, 1856.*

DEAR SIR: We can furnish the hot-pressed nuts,  $2\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{7}{8} \times 1\frac{1}{4}$  inch holes, for  $10\frac{1}{4}$  cents per pound.

Very respectfully, your obedient servants,

CAMPBELL & COYLE.

Captain M. C. MEIGS.

SEPTEMBER 25, 1856.

DEAR SIR: On the other page, you have a drawing of two cornices, with the cast iron brackets which support them. There will be 66 of each of these brackets, at what price will you deliver them?

Perhaps you may choose to make a bid for the cornices, as well as the brackets. They are circular in plan; the radius of the rotunda, to the inner face of whose wall they are attached, is  $47' 4\frac{1}{4}"$ .

They will be very thin castings. The brackets are heavier, and the price should differ, and the bids be separate.

The drawing E represents one of 72 square lacunariæ, which are to be built into the face of the wall. These are the first castings to be used on the dome. At what price, and how soon can you deliver them? The boxes might be first delivered, and the foliage follow.

Respectfully,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain Engineers.*

POOLE & HUNT, *Baltimore.*

WASHINGTON, *September 25, 1856.*

DEAR SIR: We will make and deliver in this city the bracket castings referred to in your favor of this date, at three cents per pound, including the cost of patterns.

For the cornices, we would prefer making no bid.

We will furnish the boxes and foliage, also referred to in yours of same date, and deliver them in Washington for six cents per pound, you to furnish the patterns for foliage, but not those for the boxes.

Yours, respectfully,

POOLE & HUNT.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,

*In charge United States Capitol Extension, &c.*

We will deliver the boxes at the rate of four per day, beginning within ten days, the smaller of the two brackets in three weeks, and the larger ones in four weeks.

POOLE & HUNT.

*September 25, 1856.*

DEAR SIR: I hand you herewith No. 1124, a tracing of the smaller bracket, full size, referred to in your offer of this date.

The other bracket will be sent to you to-morrow.

You will please deliver these two brackets, sixty-six of each, as offered in your letter of this date. The smaller within three weeks, and the larger within four weeks.

The boxes must stand over till I hear from other establishments.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Capt. Engineers.*

POOLE & HUNT, *Present.*

[Captain Meigs subsequently increased the number of the larger bracket to seventy-two.]

*September 25, 1856.*

DEAR SIR: There are seventy-two panels to be made for the wall of the dome, to be set in brick work. At what price, and in what time can you deliver them? They are 3' 1½" square of this form.

The sides *ab*, *cd*, to be curved to fit the rotunda wall, the radius of which is forty-seven feet nearly; *ac* and *bd* to be straight. They are light thin castings, and will ultimately receive foliage.

These are the first castings wanted for the dome.

Answer by return mail. The drawings are ready, and I await your answer to determine where to order them.

Respectfully,

M. C. MEIGS.

MESSRS. JANES, BEEBE & Co., *New York.*

[No reply to the above appears on the records of the office.]

September 25, 1856.

DEAR SIR: There are seventy-two sunk panels wanted for the interior wall of the dome, of this form, though not so deep as sketched.

These panels are to fit into a brick wall, circular in plan; radius about forty-seven feet.

The upright sides will be straight, the others curved.

They will ultimately be decorated with foliage.

The plates are thin light castings. At what price, and in what shortest time can you deliver them? They are among the first castings wanted. Answer by return mail.

Respectfully,

M. C. MEIGS.

Messrs. HAYWARD & BARTLETT, *Baltimore.*

BALTIMORE, September 26, 1856.

DEAR SIR: We have to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 25th, and in reply, would say we will make the panels you require for the dome of the Capitol, and deliver them in Washington with all seasonable dispatch, for six and a fourth cents per pound.

Respectfully, yours, &c.,

HAYWARD, BARTLETT & CO.

Captain M. C. MEIGS, *Supt. U. S. Cap. Ext.,*  
*Washington.*

BALTIMORE, September 26, 1856.

We will make the seventy-two boxes, and the foliage therefor, at the rate of four cents per pound, delivered in Washington; and make preparation to mold six per day, provided the sides of the boxes are made in four pieces and bolted together at the corners, or four and a half cents if made in one piece.

Yours, respectfully,

POOLE & HUNT.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,

*In Charge Ext. U. S. Capitol, &c.*

September 27, 1856.

DEAR SIR: I inclose No. 1127, a tracing of the panels or boxes for the dome.

I accept your offer to make them, bolting the sides of the boxes together at the corners, at (4) four cents per pound, delivered in Washington; casting six per day until the whole number, seventy-two, is furnished.



The pattern for the foliage will be prepared and sent to you as soon as possible.

Respectfully your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS.

Messrs. POOLE & HUNT, *Baltimore.*

N. B. They are to conform to dimensions, and surplus weight will be at your loss.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., *October 2, 1856.*

GENTLEMEN: I herewith hand you drawings of new dome, numbered 1,118 and 1,126, showing the *first* and *second* cornices of the *interior*.

The brackets represented have already been ordered, and are now being made. The cornice, with its enrichments, is open to competition, and I shall be pleased to receive an offer from you.

There will be sixty-six brackets to support each cornice.

Respectfully,

M. C. MEIGS, *Capt. Eng'rs.*

Messrs. JANES, BEEBE & Co., *New York.*

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NEW YORK, *October 4, 1856.*

SIR: We have examined the drawings forwarded us for the cornices for dome, and will contract to make, deliver, and put them up for nine cents per pound, including all expenses of patterns, freight, and drayage, (the government to furnish the hoisting apparatus and hoist them; also, all staging required to enable us to put them in place; also, to set and drill the brackets, as directed by Mr. Raleigh.)

Very respectfully,

JANES, BEEBE & CO.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,

*U. S. Eng. in Charge of Capitol Extension.*

P. S. We have returned this day, by Adams's express, agreeably to your request, the drawings for Senate gallery, to be duplicated.

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OCTOBER 8, 1856.

DEAR SIR: I send a photograph reduced from drawing No. 1118 A, which will be convenient for reference.

You already have large detail drawings of these two cornices.

The brackets are already making by Poole & Hunt, Baltimore.

The square panels are also being made by them.

The facing and ornaments of the cornices you will please make, and deliver here as soon as possible, at six cents per pound for the castings, to be paid on delivery, and three cents per pound for putting them up complete.

There will be seventy-two brackets in the upper cornice and sixty six in the lower, all equally spaced and set upon a circle of the radius shown by the drawings.

In order to allow play for any inaccuracy in setting the brackets, you will diminish the radius of your work so as to allow half an inch between the vertical plates and the brackets they are to be screwed to. In all other respects, follow the drawings.

Before casting the leaves and eggs, and other ornaments, send me one copy from the pattern. I may not be able to visit New York to see it, and I wish to approve each leaf before it is cast.

There are certain leaves in the cornice of the Senate which I would not have accepted without alteration, had I seen them in time. They show too light on the edges, and to the eye look like stamped-work, instead of architectural enrichment.

Respectfully,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain Engineers.*

JANES, BEEBE & Co., *New York.*

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EAGLE IRON WORKS,  
*Washington City, October 14, 1856.*

SIR: We respectfully offer to furnish the brackets for dome (the drawings for which we examined in your office,) including patterns, for the sum of two and a half cents per pound, delivered at the Capitol.

We are, very respectfully, your obedient servants,

WM. M. ELLIS & BROTHER.

Captain M. C. MEIGS, *United States Engineers,*  
*and Superintendent of Capitol Extension.*

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OCTOBER 18, 1856.

DEAR SIR: The drawing of the bracket, upon which will rest the columns and wall of the dome, is complete and ready for examination.

I shall be pleased to receive a bid for the castings delivered here.

There will be seventy-two of them—thirty-six rights and thirty-six lefts.

The weight is calculated here at 5,100 pounds each.

Respectfully,

M. C. MEIGS.

POOLE & HUNT,  
*Baltimore, Maryland.*

---

WASHINGTON, *October 21, 1856.*

DEAR SIR: We will furnish seventy-two brackets upon which the columns of the new dome are to rest, thirty-six of them right-hand

and thirty-six of them left-hand, at the rate of two and three eighths cents per pound, delivered in Washington. We will commence the delivery thereof in three weeks from the time we receive the order, at the rate of two castings per day, until the whole are completed, to be made of good strong iron, a sample of which will be furnished with each casting.

Yours, respectfully,

POOLE & HUNT.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,  
*In Charge U. S. Capitol Extension, &c.*

OCTOBER 18, 1856.

DEAR SIR: I need seventy-two large brackets to support the dome. They are about one and a half inches thick—of this form:

The ribs T or + shaped in section, the total weight about 5,100 pounds.

There will be thirty-six of these cast from one pattern and thirty-six from a pattern the fellow to it, being rights and lefts.

At what price and in what time after the receipt of the order would you undertake to deliver them in Washington at the railroad depot?

The iron to be of good quality as to tenacity, and soft enough to fit and bore without difficulty.

Respectfully,

M. C. MEIGS.

J. R. JONES,  
*Harrisburg.*

WASHINGTON CITY, *October 24, 1856.*

DEAR SIR: I will cast and make the patterns, at my expense, and deliver at the railroad depot or wharf at Washington city, seventy-two large cast-iron brackets to support the dome of Capitol for two cents and five eighths per pound, ( $2\frac{5}{8}$  cents,) and agree to make them of good soft grey metal, and have them all made within ninety days from the day I may receive your order.

Yours, very respectfully,

J. R. JONES.

Captain M. C. MEIGS.

WASHINGTON CITY, *October 24, 1856.*

DEAR SIR: I will make the patterns at my expense, and cast and deliver all the floor plates to make the floor between the large brackets of the dome of the Capitol, at Washington city, for two cents and one

quarter cent per pound, ( $2\frac{1}{4}$  cents.) They shall be made of strong and soft metal, and cast as soon as you may wish.

Yours, very respectfully,

J. R. JONES.

Captain M. C. MEIGS.

OCTOBER 25, 1856.

DEAR SIR: As your offer for the heavy brackets of the dome is  $\frac{1}{8}$  cent per pound lower than I have received from others, I shall send the drawing to you as soon as the copy is finished.

There are 72, which we estimate to weigh 5,100 each, and, at two and three-eighths cents per pound, to cost \$129  $12\frac{1}{2}$  each.

I send you this notice that you may make arrangements to procure your iron at once.

The drawing will be ready in a day or two.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS.

POOLE & HUNT,  
*Baltimore.*

OCTOBER 25, 1856.

MY DEAR SIR: Having offers for the brackets of dome at  $2\frac{3}{8}$ , or one-eighth cent lower than yours, I have given the order to the lowest bidder.

The offers received were  $2\frac{5}{8}$ ,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $2\frac{3}{8}$ .

The floor plates I will not be able to order for some time.

Respectfully,

M. C. MEIGS.

*Captain Engineers.*

J. R. JONES, Esq.,  
*Harrisburg, Pa.*

FEBRUARY 12, 1857.

DEAR SIR: Mr. Sonneman reports that he has gone over his calculations of the weight of the bracket, or, rather, has recalculated it, and gives as the weight by the drawing 6,116 pounds. The weight of the additions made by adding to the thickness of the ribs is 142 pounds; making, for the bracket as ordered to be constructed, 6,258 pounds.

He probably omitted to carry a figure in his former addition, as the difference is just a thousand pounds, his former calculation being 5,100 pounds.

I think thus the weight, so much exceeding the supposed weight, would have justified you in reducing your price per pound to nearly

what you would have offered had it weighed 7,000 pounds, as first sketched.

Respectfully,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain Engineers,*

POOLE & HUNT,  
*Baltimore.*

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BALTIMORE, *February 13, 1857.*

DEAR SIR: We are in receipt of your of 12th inst. We rated our price for the brackets to weigh 7,000 pounds, at  $2\frac{1}{4}$  cents, and told you that if we got the order for the 144 uprights in connexion with the brackets we thought we might do the whole job for 2 cents. We do not, however, now believe it can be done; iron has somewhat advanced in price, and is still stiffening with a probability of holding so.

When we were informed that the brackets would weigh only 5,100 pounds we told you we could not make them for less than  $2\frac{3}{8}$  cents, and at that price we received the order.

We are thus particular in stating circumstances, not that we wish to recede from anything which we have promised, but that you may have your memory assisted. We now have to say that, if you see proper to leave the weight of the castings as it is, which is less than 7,000 pounds, and think that we ought to charge them at  $2\frac{1}{4}$  cents per pound, we will at once agree to do so, although, even at  $2\frac{3}{8}$  cents, and at their present weight, we realize far less than an average business profit.

Do not the 36 lower pieces for base of columns belong to our contract for columns? When the drawing for them was received, with your order for columns and bases and capitals, this piece was shown upon the drawing, and we even went so far as to make the pattern before we discovered that you did not then wish them cast. We do not know in what light you view this, but it has occurred to us that it is part of the base of column, and forms part of our order therefor.

Please let us hear from you soon, and oblige.

Yours, respectfully,

POOLE & HUNT.

Capt. M. C. MEIGS,  
*In charge Ex. U. S. capitol, Washington.*

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FEBRUARY 17, 1857.

DEAR SIR: The brackets will weigh, if the pattern is not altered, about 6,700 lbs., which, at  $2\frac{1}{4}$  cents, comes so near to 6,300 lbs. at  $2\frac{3}{8}$ , that I think it not worth while to put you to the risk and expense of altering the pattern. I therefore agree to your offer of  $2\frac{1}{4}$  cts. per pound for the brackets, cast from the pattern as now made.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain Engineers.*

POOLE & HUNT,  
*Baltimore, Md.*

DEAR SIR: Please send me some samples of hoop-iron, with prices. I shall want some fifteen thousand feet, indeed more, of two or three sizes.

Respectfully,

M. C. MEIGS.

CAMPBELL & COYLE.

WASHINGTON CITY, *October 31, 1856.*

DEAR SIR: We can furnish hoop iron of the following sizes, viz:

1 inch,	per sample herewith,	at	$4\frac{5}{10}$	per lb.
$1\frac{1}{4}$ "	" " " "	"	$4\frac{4}{10}$	" "
$1\frac{1}{2}$ "	" " " "	"	$4\frac{4}{10}$	" "

Very respectfully, your ob't serv'ts,

CAMPBELL & COYLE.

Capt. M. C. MEIGS.

OCTOBER 31, 1856.

DEAR SIR: I have examined your samples of hoop iron, and will take at the prices named, viz:  $4\frac{4}{10}$  cts. per lb. for  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " and  $4\frac{5}{10}$  cts. for 1".

Seventeen hundred and fifty lbs. of the 1" iron and 2,400 lbs. of the  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch iron.

I shall probably need a further supply of the large size, but may, perhaps, require a still stouter iron.

Respectfully,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain Engineers..*

Messrs. CAMPBELL & COYLE.

1" iron is ordered for Capitol Extension, for coil cases, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " for dome.

JULY 10, 1857.

DEAR SIR: I send a photograph of the plinth of columns of peristyle of dome.

This is part of the columns, and will be paid for at the price formerly agreed upon.

You will observe that there are two patterns.

Be good enough to put them in hand, and forward them as fast as possible.

Respectfully yours,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain Engineers.*

POOLE & HUNT,  
*Baltimore.*

JULY 24, 1857.

DEAR SIR: I send to-day, by express, drawings No. 1241.

Details of floor-plates under peristyle of dome 1481. Details of stylobate of dome, showing the construction of the gutters, bracketing, &c. 1493. Full sized details of the aforesaid stylobate.

These drawings include all the floor of the peristyle and exterior surface of the dome from the top of the octagon to the bottom of the plinths of the columns.

By referring to this photographic elevation and section, you will be able to locate them.

For this work I shall be pleased to receive an estimate at a stated price per lb., delivered at the building, and a separate price for putting the work up. Leaving it to me to employ my own workmen to put them up, should they be at liberty, and not employed upon other parts of the work.

This work is needed early, especially the plates which support the gutters, &c., represented in No. 1481 and 1241.

Respectfully, your ob't serv't,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain Engineers.*

MESSRS JAMES & BEEBE,  
*New York.*

NEW YORK, *July 30, 1857.*

SIR: We have examined the drawings forwarded us for work on the dome, and carefully estimated their cost; and we now offer to contract to make and deliver them at the Capitol in Washington, including all charges of patterns, flasks, freight, drayage, &c., complete and ready to be put up for six cents per pound (6 cents); and we will further contract to furnish all required bolts and put the same in place for one and one-half cent per pound ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  cent), government to furnish hoisting apparatus and steam-power for hoisting the same, and furnish the required stagings at their expense.

Very respectfully, yours,

JANES, BEEBE & CO.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,  
*U. S. Engineer in Charge of Capitol Extension.*

JULY 31, 1857.

DEAR SIR: I accept your proposition for so much of the cast-iron work of the floor of the peristyle and exterior of stylobate of dome, as is represented in drawings Nos. 1241, 1481, and 1493, sent to you with my letter of the 24th instant.

That is to say, to furnish and deliver at the Capitol, in this city, the castings required, fitted ready to put up, at six cents (6 cents) per lb.,

to be paid on delivery; and to put up the same for the further sum of one and a half cent per lb.

These prices to include all bolts, nuts, workmanship, and materials necessary to the entire completion of this portion of the work, except only scaffolding, hoisting machinery, and steam-power for hoisting, which will be furnished by the United States.

The plinths of the columns of peristyle are being cast in Baltimore, and will be delivered in a short time.

As the columns cannot be set until the floor plates are put up, these latter should be delivered first.

The above prices include any fitting or chipping which may be necessary upon the main brackets to fit them to receive your work.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain Engineers.*

MESSRS. JANES, BEEBE & Co.,  
*New York.*

JULY 29, 1857.

DEAR SIR: Yesterday I sent by express drawings 1484 and 1474, details of main pillars of dome; and 1487, 1488, cross braces, and 1492, plan of cross braces and of connecting plates of pillars.

For all these I request you to make a proposition, both as regards price and time.

We want them as fast as they can be cast.

The plinths of columns we are still waiting for.

Respectfully,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain Engineers.*

MESSRS. POOLE & HUNT,  
*Baltimore.*

BALTIMORE, *August 10, 1857.*

DEAR SIR: We will make and deliver in Washington the castings for main pillars and braces for new dome, as shown by the drawings sent us July 29, 1857, at two and three-eighth ( $2\frac{3}{8}$ ) cents per pound.

We will also agree to furnish, until further notice, all orders for castings of the same style as those above mentioned, that you be disposed to send us, at the same price per pound, viz: (two and three-eighths cents.)

Yours, respectfully,

POOLE & HUNT.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,  
*In charge Extension U. S. Capitol, &c., Washington.*



AUGUST 10, 1857.

DEAR SIR: You will please make and deliver the castings for pillars and braces of dome, represented in the drawings Nos. 1484, 1474, 1487, 1488, 1492 forwarded to you in my letter of 29th July, at the price named in your letter of this date, viz: two and three-eighths cents per pound, delivered on the cars at the depot in Washington. To be of good, strong, tough metal, soft enough to be drilled and chipped.

The pillars are wanted as rapidly as possible, that we may begin to set them up. The braces, which are lighter, should be completed by the time the pillars are all delivered.

I understand that as soon as the patterns are right you will be able to deliver two pillars a day.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain Engineers.*

MESSRS. POOLE & HUNT,  
*Baltimore, Md.*

EXTENSION U. S. CAPITOL,  
*Washington, November 5, 1857.*

GENTLEMEN: We are immediately in want of pillars for dome, unfinished.

Forward, at your earliest possible convenience, three small pillars for right side of brackets looking out from centre of dome; also two large pillars for left side of brackets looking from centre outward.

We use four of these pillars per day, and must have that number to keep our machines, that are fitted up for this purpose, constantly at work.

In future, when you send pillars, it will accomodate by sending them in sets of four

Very respectfully,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain Engineers.*

MESSRS. POOLE & HUNT,  
*Baltimore, Md.*

BALTIMORE, *November 6, 1857.*

DEAR SIR: We have yours of 5th inst. We will send the pillars down as fast as possible; several are now cast which, I think, are perfect enough, but we are afraid to send them lest they should not come up to the standard you have set. If you can dress four pillars per day, that will be twice as fast as we cast them. We should like, if we could, to keep you going, but we cannot well do it without altering some of our arrangements in the foundry, and delaying other work, besides having to make extra flasks.

This change would put us to considerable extra expense, which, however, we would be willing to bear in part, and will now say, that if you will allow us one hundred dollars we will take the risk of delaying other matters and arrange to cast four pillars per day, and get ready therefor with the least possible delay.

\* \* \* \* \*

Yours, respectfully,

POOLE & HUNT.

Capt. M. C. MEIGS,

*In charge Extension U. S. Capitol, &c., Washington.*

NOVEMBER 7, 1857.

DEAR SIR: We finish four pillars per day. In order to get the work earlier, I will be willing to pay the cost of extra or additional flasks, \$100, provided you deliver regularly four pillars per day until completed.

Respectfully,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain Engineers.*

MESSRS. POOLE & HUNT.

VULCAN WORKS,

*Baltimore, October 12, 1857.*

SIR: We will agree to furnish the tie ring of plate iron required for the dome of United States Capitol, riveted together in its place, the United States doing the transportation of the work from the cars in Washington to the Capitol, and furnishing the means of hoisting the parts from the base of the Capitol to the positions they are intended to occupy without charge to us, at the rate of six and a quarter cents ( $6\frac{1}{4}$  cents) per pound, finished weight; it being understood that the plates are to be doubled, half an inch in thickness, with joint strips five inches in width and half inch in thickness; that the ring is to be  $79\frac{7}{8}$  inches wide, and to have an interior diameter of 94 feet  $9\frac{3}{4}$  inches, and that the smallest width of plates used shall be forty-nine inches.

This estimate does not include the cost of drilling the holes requisite to secure the ring to its supports and the superstructure to the ring.

Most respectfully, &c.

MURRAY & HAZLEHURST.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,

*&c., &c., &c.*

WASHINGTON, *October 19, 1857.*

GENTLEMEN: Your proposal of October 12, to furnish the tie ring of plate iron required for the new dome of the United States Capitol, riveted

in its place, (the United States transporting and hoisting the materials in Washington,) for six and one-fourth cents per pound, finished weight, will be accepted, subject to the following additions to the specifications of your letter: At one place in the ring there is to be provided an opening for the stairway, with a different arrangement of plates, (the plates trebled,) the plate added on top being  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch, and all the others  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, &c., &c., as shown in the accompanying drawing.

The plates are to have all buckles panned out of them after punching and before riveting, and the ring is to be level and straight when completed. The iron of the plates is to be tested by strips cut off in shearing, which shall double down cold under the hammer without fracture, and any plate which cracks under the punch or in sweating, shall be rejected.

The rivets are to be  $\frac{3}{4}$ " x  $3\frac{1}{4}$ " from center to center, and the iron of the rivets shall be tested by doubling cold under the hammer without fracture. It would be preferred that the plate iron shall be Abbott's puddled plate from the coal pig, to stand the foregoing tests. The accompanying photograph shows the general disposition of the plates, etc.

Waiting an answer at your earliest convenience, I am yours, respectfully,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain Engineers.*

MESSRS. MURRAY & HAZLEHURST.

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CANTON ROLLING MILL,  
*Baltimore, October 7, 1857.*

DEAR SIR: Agreeably to your request, we propose to furnish the government with the plates required for the ring or band for the base of the dome of the Capitol, to say about one hundred and forty-four plates iron 8' 4" long by 4' 6" wide, and about seventy-five plates 8' 4" long by 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " , all  $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick; all of which we will deliver at the Capitol in Washington at four (4) cents per pound—the above to be sheared to exact dimensions, and warranted to punch and rivet up without cracking or breaking. Or we will furnish the number of plates above specified, made smooth and accurately sheared, and warranted equal in quality to common English iron, at three and one-half ( $3\frac{1}{2}$ ) cents per pound, delivered as above. This last would no doubt answer the purpose, provided you would drill instead of punching, or punch them with a very sharp punch. The iron first quoted (at 4 cents) would make much the strongest and best job.

Soliciting an early reply to the above proposition, we are, very truly yours,

H. ABBOTT & SON.

CAPTAIN MEIGS,  
*Superintendent Capitol Extension, Washington, D. C.*

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WASHINGTON, *October 21, 1857.*

GENTLEMEN: After some consideration of your proposal to furnish iron for the plate band for the new dome of the United States Capitol,

it has been thought advisable to complete an arrangement by which the band shall be delivered in a finished state, in place of purchasing the materials and either doing the work by days' work or by the job or pound afterwards.

A bargain has consequently been entered into by which Messrs. Murray & Hazelhurst, of your city, have undertaken to provide the materials and labor put up on the dome.

In the understanding it was specified that the iron of the plates is to be tested by strips cut off in shearing, which shall double down cold under the hammer without fracture; and any plate that shall crack under the punch, or in rivetting, shall be rejected; and, further, that it will be preferred that the plate shall be Abbott's puddled plate, from charcoal pig, to stand the above tests.

Hoping the above arrangements may prove satisfactory, I remain, respectfully yours,

M. C. MEIGS.

MESSRS. H. ABBOTT & SON.

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BALTIMORE, *October 26, 1857.*

DEAR SIR: We propose to furnish the castings for pilaster capitals with the turns at the ends of the leaves, as talked of with Mr. Briggs, delivered, at ten cents per pound.

Respectfully, your obedient servants,

HAYWARD, BARTLETT & CO.

Capt. M. C. MEIGS,

*Engineer in charge U. S. Capitol Extension, Washington.*

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NOVEMBER 7, 1857.

DEAR SIRS: I send drawing No. 1617, with photograph of 1503, of which 1617 is a copy.

The cross-braces and cylinders represented in blue on the drawing are to be made by you. There will be thirty-six braces and thirty-six cylinders, one to each column.

Turning and chipping places should be left at the corners of the cross-braces and at all bearing points, and other parts should be so arranged as not to come in actual contact with the work adjoining.

Respectfully,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain Engineers.*

MESSRS. POOLE & HUNT, *Baltimore.*

BALTIMORE, *November 12, 1857.*

DEAR SIR: The cylinders shown on drawing 1617 are of a class of castings entirely different from the pillars for dome, and cannot be afforded at the same price. As they are much the same description as the columns upon which they are placed, we propose to make them at the price at which we furnished the columns, viz: three and four-tenths ( $3\frac{4}{10}$ ) cents per pound.

Yours, respectfully,

POOLE & HUNT.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,

*In charge Ex. U. S. Capitol, &c., Washington.*

*November 14, 1857.*

DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 12th instant, offering to make the cylinders shown in drawing 1617, which rest upon tops of column shafts, at the same price as the columns, viz: three and four-tenths cents per pound, delivered in cars at Washington, as usual, is received.

The price named seems to me a proper one, and the offer is accepted.

Respectfully,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain Engineers.*

MESSRS. POOLE & HUNT, *Baltimore.*

BALTIMORE, *December 8, 1857.*

DEAR SIR: If you have not given out the castings of pilaster capitals, for which we proposed on the 26th of October, we should be pleased to make them, with the change of patterns proposed, for seven cents per pound.

Respectfully,

HAYWARD, BARTLETT & CO.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,

*Engineer in charge U. S. Capitol Extension, Washington.*

*February 4, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: I send a tracing of No. 1725, details of dome; No. 1726, showing the connection of water-pipes between large brackets. The pipe seven feet long, of which we need eighteen; the small pipes right and left, of which we need eighteen each, right and left, should be so cast as to fit loosely, and not require boring or turning.

I also inclose a photograph, 1481, which will give some details of parts of the work near these pipes.

Please make an offer, per pound, for casting and delivering these thirty-six small and eighteen large pipes, as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain of Engineers.*

MESSRS. POOLE & HUNT, *Baltimore, Md.*

BALTIMORE, *February 6, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: We will make the pipe castings, alluded to in yours of the 4th instant, at four cents per pound, delivered in Washington.

The great cost of patterns and preparation, as compared with the weight produced, requires this seemingly high price. We will then merely about get our own back again, and we shall only be benefitted as far as keeping the men at work.

Yours, respectfully,

POOLE & HUNT.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,

*In charge Extension U. S. Capitol, &c., Washington.*

*February 10, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: Please to proceed to make the pipe castings described in my letter of the 4th instant, and drawings therein, at four cents per pound, delivered in Washington.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers in charge of Washington Aqueduct.*

POOLE & HUNT, *Baltimore, Md.*

WASHINGTON, *November 12, 1857.*

DEAR SIR: I have sent by express to-day, addressed to you, a tin case, containing the drawings mentioned in the inclosed list.

The parts colored in red, are being made by Poole & Hunt, Baltimore, belonging to the skeleton of the work. Those colored blue, belonging to the surface or skin of the dome, are submitted for your estimate.

I shall be pleased to receive a bid from you as early as convenient.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS, *Captain Engineers.*

MESSRS. JANES, BEBEE & Co.,

*New York.*

WASHINGTON, *November 21, 1857.*

SIR: In order to furnish you with a reliable estimate of the price at which we can make, deliver, and put up, the work of the first section of the dome referred to by your letter of the 12th instant, and the accompanying drawings, we have visited Washington, and considered the subject in all its bearings, and we are now prepared to offer, and we do now offer, to execute the work shown on the drawings submitted to us, and referred to in your letter, in the best and most perfect manner, for seven cents per pound, (7 c.) which price will cover all patterns, workmanship, materials, freight, hauling, and every expense

pertaining to the work, until the same shall be delivered on the Capitol grounds.

And we further offer to put up all the aforesaid work complete, including all bolts, nuts, screws, &c., for the further sum of two cents per pound, (2 c.,) the putting up to be paid for as the work progresses, in sums of not less than ten thousand dollars.

Understanding that all scaffolding, staging, and hoisting required, shall be furnished by government.

Yours, respectfully,

JANES, BEBEE & CO.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,

*U. S. Engineer in charge of Capitol Extension.*

NEW YORK, *July 6, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: It is a long time since we gave you an estimate for iron work of dome, and as there has not been any action on it, and there has been some change in the iron market, we may wish to make some change in our offer. We therefore wish to withdraw our bid, and will send you our estimate on the return of Mr. Fowler.

Your favor of 1st instant, accepting our offer to furnish sky-lights for roof of center building, on F street, was received, and are obliged. They will be put into the works at once.

Respectfully, yours,

JANES, BEEBE, & Co.

Captain M. C. MEIGS.

OFFICE OF THE ARCHITECTURAL IRON WORKS,  
42, *Duane street, New York, June 28, 1858.*

SIR: We will furnish the castings for the inside casings of the dome of Capitol, and deliver the same on wharf in Washington, or at depot, for the sum of five and three fourth ( $5\frac{3}{4}$ ) cents per pound; and will put up the same complete, you making and furnishing all stagings and scaffoldings that may be required, and hoisting the work to place, for the sum of two and one half ( $2\frac{1}{2}$ ) cents per pound.

It is understood that the work may be commenced immediately and prosecuted to completion, without hindrance on your part.

Very respectfully,

J. M. REED, *President.*

Captain M. C. MEIGS, *in charge Capitol Extension.*

ARCHITECTURAL IRON WORKS OFFICE,  
*Office, 42 Duane Street, New York, July 14, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: Since my return home, I have consulted with my associates in regard to the offer I made for furnishing the casing of dome

of Capitol, and we think, in view of the present prices of stock and labor, that we can reduce our offer for that work a trifle. We therefore withdraw our first bid, and substitute the following :

We will furnish the castings for the inside casing of dome of Capitol for the sum of five and three eighths ( $5\frac{3}{8}$ ) cents per pound, delivered in Washington, and will put up the same for the sum of two and one half ( $2\frac{1}{2}$ ) cents per pound ; you furnishing all necessary stagings and platform, and carting and hoisting the work to place, as in our former proposition.

Very truly,

J. M. REED & CO.,  
*President.*

Capt. M. C. MEIGS,

*In charge of Capitol Extension, Washington, D. C.*

P. S.—Please acknowledge the receipt of this.

DEAR SIR: Yours of the 14th withdrawing former offer for dome and making a new one is received, and will have attention.

Respectfully,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain of Engineers.*

J. M. REED,

*President Architectural Iron Works,  
42 Duane Street, New York.*

NEW YORK, August 9, 1858.

SIR: We will agree to contract to furnish the iron work required for the skin of the first section of the dome according to the drawings submitted to us, furnishing all patterns, and delivering the same at the Capitol, including freight and drayage; and furnish all bolts, nuts, and screws, and put the same in place for six cents per pound, four and one half cents per pound to be paid on delivery, and the remaining one and one half cents as the work progresses; it being understood and agreed that government are to furnish all required staging, hoisting apparatus, and hoist the same to its place.

Respectfully yours,

JANES, BEEBE & CO.

Capt. M. C. MEIGS,

*United States Engineer in charge of Capitol Extension.*

AUGUST 17, 1859.

Mr. Fowler claims that "hoist the same to its place" includes slinging or hitching on the iron delivered by him within reach of the rope of the hoisting apparatus, and that therefore the United States



should furnish the man or men needed for this purpose. Janes, Beebe & Co. receiving the iron once hoisted and unslinging and stowing it away.

If a second hoist should be needed, Janes, Beebe & Co. to sling and the United States merely to hoist by the engine power.

Agreed to, as thus limited and explained.

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain of Engineers.*

BALTIMORE, *September 8, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: We inclose our proposal for the section of the dome next to be finished. We did not know exactly how to describe it, but trust it will be sufficiently definite to avoid any slip on that score, as we think it includes all the deliveries, &c., that can be required.

Respectfully, yours,

HAYWARD, BARTLETT & CO.

Capt. M. C. MEIGS,  
*Engineer U. S. Capitol, &c., Washington.*

BALTIMORE, *September 8, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: We propose to furnish the castings required for the completion of the section of the Capitol dome to the height of the Corinthian columns, as per drawings shown us, for five and one fourth cents per pound, and to put up the same for two cents per pound, you doing the hoisting and furnishing staging.

Very respectfully, your obedient servants,

HAYWARD, BARTLETT & CO.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,  
*Eng. in charge U. S. Cap. Ext., &c., Washington.*

OFFICE UNITED STATES CAPITOL EXTENSION,  
*September 25, 1858.*

SIR: I inclose three offers for the cast-iron work of the skin or covering of the framework of the principal story of the dome. They are as follows:

Hayward, Bartlett & Co., September 8, 1858:

For the castings, delivered.....	5 $\frac{1}{4}$ cents per pound.
Putting up.....	2 cents per pound.

Total.....	7 $\frac{1}{4}$ cents per pound.
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Hoisting and scaffolding by United States.

Janes, Beebe & Co., August 9, 1858:

For castings, delivered, including all bolts, nuts, screws.....	4½ cents per pound.
Putting up.....	1½ cents per pound.

Total.....	6 cents per pound.
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Hoisting and scaffolding by United States.

Architectural Iron Works; J. M. Reed, president; D. D. Badger, superintendent:

For castings, delivered.....	5½ cents per pound.
Putting up.....	2½ cents per pound.

Total.....	7½ cents per pound.
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Hoisting, carting, and scaffolding, by the United States.

These are three of the largest establishments in the United States, and probably command the most skillful workmen.

Messrs. Janes, Beebe & Co., who are the lowest in price, have done the greater part of the ornamental iron work about the Capitol extension. Their work has always given satisfaction when completed, and they are prompt in its execution.

Their price is very low, and I advise that I be authorized to order the work from them, as I have heretofore ordered large quantities of work from the same house.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers in Charge.*

Hon. J. B. FLOYD,

*Secretary of War.*

The above report was returned from the War Department, indorsed as follows:

Approved:

J. B. FLOYD,

*Secretary of War.*

WAR DEPARTMENT, *October 5, 1858.*

WASHINGTON, *October 7, 1858.*

DEARS SIR: The Secretary of War has approved my recommendation to accept your offer of 9th August, for the skin of the dome, first section, at 6 cents per pound, as specified therein, viz: 4½ cents on delivery, and 1½ on completion of the putting up.

Respectfully,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers in Charge.*

MESSRS. JANES, BEEBE & Co., *New York.*

UNITED STATES CAPITOL EXTENSION,  
*Washington, April 15, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: At what price can you furnish, for the new dome, 36 pieces of your 7-inch iron beams, 9' 10" long, to be delivered in Washington as early as possible?

Your attention is called to my order of March 20 and 29, for 336 pieces angle iron 5½" long. These pieces are wanted as early as you can possibly furnish them.

Very respectfully,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain of Engineers.*

Mr. S. J. REEVES,  
*Vice-president Phoenix Iron Co., Philadelphia, Pa.*

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OFFICE OF THE PHOENIX IRON COMPANY,  
*Franklin Building, Walnut above Fourth street,  
Philadelphia, April 17, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: Yours of the 15th instant duly received. We will furnish you with the 7-inch wrought iron beams, 9' 10" long, at 90 cents per foot, delivered at Washington, with the understanding that you pay the freight from here there, and deduct the amount from our bill. We ask this, because it is not practicable for us to pay all the way there at this point.

The short pieces angle iron were shipped you yesterday, of which we advised you by mail, with bill and bill of lading.

Respectfully,

JAMES MILLIKEN,  
*Secretary.*

Captain M. C. MEIGS,  
*U. S. Capitol Extension, Washington, D. C.*

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UNITED STATES CAPITOL EXTENSION,  
*Washington, April 29, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: Yours of the 17th instant is at hand. Your offer to furnish 36 pieces of 7" wrought iron beams 9' 10" long, at 90 cents per running foot, delivered in Washington, is accepted, with the understanding that I will pay the freight of said beams upon delivery in Washington, which will be deducted from the amount of your bill. These beams are to be sent to the Capitol Extension, but marked for the dome. Please forward them as early as possible.

Very respectfully,

M. C. MEIGS.

PHOENIX IRON COMPANY,  
*Philadelphia, Pa.*

NEW YORK, *November 11, 1859.*

DEAR SIR: The pilaster capital, full-size drawing No. 221, is so different from the drawing of the pilaster capitals of interior, No. 1242, we hardly see how the patterns of one can be changed for the other. We were informed at the time we made the bargain for the work that we might reduce the patterns which were already made for the outside pilaster so as to fit the inside. Have we your consent to go on and do this, or shall we make new patterns? In which case, we want the privilege of charging the government with the cost. We made the bargain understanding the patterns for the pilaster patterns were ready-made, and made no estimate for making them.

Please inform us whether we shall reduce them, as agreed, or whether you would prefer new patterns, made in accordance with the design.

Yours, respectfully,

JANES, FOWLER, KIRTLAND & CO.

THOMAS U. WALTER, Esq.,

*Architect U. S. Capitol, Washington, D. C.*

UNITED STATES CAPITOL EXTENSION OFFICE,

*Washington, November 12, 1859.*

GENTLEMEN: I have received from Mr. Walter, Architect of the Capitol extension, your letter, of the 11th instant, on the two capitals of the dome pilasters, and that of the 10th instant, on the lengths of certain steps, and on the platforms of the staircases.

The latter is answered by Mr. Walter's letter, which is herewith inclosed.

With regard to the former, I have examined your correspondence Captain Meigs, and I do not find any mention of the understanding or agreement about the capitals of the pilasters, which you mention. I have also conferred with Captain Meigs on the subject, and he has informed me that he fully understood that you were to furnish the patterns for the inside pilaster yourselves, without altering that of the outside one.

I do not, therefore, feel empowered to consent to the alteration, or to pay for the new patterns.

I respectfully request that hereafter, in your correspondence on the subject of this contract, you will address your letters to me, at this office. This course is necessary, as the bills are to be settled by me, and when any question of information comes up, the matter will be referred to Mr. Walter. Much confusion will be saved if you will adopt this course.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Capt. of Top'l Eng'rs, Sup't of New Dome, &c*

MESSRS. JANES, FOWLER, KIRTLAND & CO.,

*No. 356 Broadway, New York.*

WASHINGTON, *November 18, 1859.*

DEAR SIR: Upon reflecting upon our conversation, I am under the impression that you did not consider that the two orders that were given to us for the work of the dome were separate and distinct, and based on separate sets of drawings.

First, we engaged on the 30th of July, 1857, to execute the stylobate, shown on drawings 1241, 1481, and 1493, for six cents per pound, (see letters of July, 1857.) After we completed this, we made a bargain for "the skin of the first section of dome, according to the drawings submitted to us," also for six cents per pound (see letters of August 9 and October 7, 1858.) Now we understand the "first section of the dome" to be that part included between the roof and top of the colonnade, and this, our understanding of it, is corroborated by the fact that the drawings submitted to us embrace the whole of this base, as you will find by obtaining from the architect the list of those sent numbers drawings 1241, 1481, and 1493, above referred to, they belonged to a former bargain; the list of those sent we will return, if you please or the plans submitted to us on which this bargain was based, for your inspection. Such being the fact, you will see that the said base is clearly included in our bargain, and, being so impressed ourselves, we have made all the patterns for the same, but, inasmuch as you have desired another offer, we herewith inclose one, which can be used as suggested, provided you differ from us in opinion as to the nature of the present bargain.

Very respectfully, your obedient servants,

JANES, FOWLER, KIRTLAND & CO.,

Late Janes, Beebe & Co.

Captain W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Engineer in Charge of United States Capitol, &c.*

WASHINGTON, *November 18, 1859.*

SIR: We hereby offer to execute the iron-work of the base of the new dome for the same prices, and under the same conditions, that we are executing the work now in hand, that is to say, furnish all patterns and deliver the same at the Capitol, including freight, drayage, bolts, nuts, screws, and put the same in place, for six cents per pound, four and one half cents to be paid on delivery, and the remaining one and one half cents as the work progresses, it being understood and agreed that government are to furnish all required staging, hoisting apparatus, and hoist the same to its place.

Very respectfully, yours,

JANES, FOWLER, KIRTLAND & CO.

Captain W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Engineer in Charge United States Capitol, &c.*

UNITED STATES CAPITOL EXTENSION OFFICE,

*Washington, December 1, 1859.*

GENTLEMEN: I shall be glad to receive bids from you for the skin of the dome as high as the vertical part above the part now erected goes.

Also for the skin below that part, specifying the price per pound, delivered under the derrick, and the price per pound for erecting the work.

If you wish to bid for the cast-iron frame-work of the first three sections above the work now erected, and of the part below that already erected, all delivered at the workshop, I will consider such bid also.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Captain of Topographical Engineers in charge New Dome, &c.*

MESSRS. JAMES, FOWLER, KIRTLAND & Co.,

*No. 356 Broadway, New York.*

WASHINGTON, *December 2, 1859.*

SIR: In compliance with your letter of the 1st instant, we hereby offer to execute "the skin of the dome as high as the vertical part above the part now erected goes," delivered under the derrick for four and one half cents per pound, ( $4\frac{1}{2}$ ;) and we will agree to put the same in place for one and one half cents per pound, ( $1\frac{1}{2}$ ;) and we will agree to execute the skin of the dome below the part now erected, delivered under the derrick, for four and one half cents per pound, ( $4\frac{1}{2}$ ;) and we will agree to put the same in place for one and one half cents per pound; and will agree to execute the three first sections of the frame-work above the work now erected, delivered at the work-shops, for three cents per pound; and we will agree to deliver the frame-work below the work now erected, for three cents per pound, delivered at the work-shops.

These offers are made upon the understanding that government is to make and furnish all staging, hoisting apparatus, and hoist the iron to its place, payments to be made for the skin four and one half cents on delivery, and the remaining one and one half cents for putting up as the work progresses, as in former agreement, and the frame as delivered.

Having thus made an offer in accordance with your letter of the 1st instant, we beg leave to lay before you another proposition. We have examined the plans for the dome, and we find the design of what remains to be done above the work now being put up, is so dependent, the one part on the other, that it forms a whole that cannot well be divided; and the frame-work and the skin bear such relations to each other as to make it important that both should be made in the same shop; our experience in what we have already done, proves to us the advantage to government as well as to the mechanics, of having all the work done in the same establishment; we therefore propose to execute all that remains to be done to the dome, including the putting up of the entire work, exclusive only of staging and hoisting, as before expressed, *for seven cents per pound, (7c.;*) although our offer for the whole work at seven cents appears to be higher than our offer for the portions of the work specified by you, we beg leave to say that in reality it is much lower. We observe that you reserve to government the

planing, chipping, fitting and putting up the main ribs. This will no doubt cost as much as the simple delivery of the castings, thus bringing even the ribs up to our estimate, or nearly so, for the whole; as to the skin, we offer that at six cents, (6,) but it must be remembered that when we come to the spherical part of the exterior of the dome and its rich interior, these portions will cost us ten or twelve cents per pound, and the higher we go the more expensive it will be; but in view of our knowledge of the work, the facilities we now have for doing it, and our pride to complete what we have begun, we have offered the whole at the low price of seven cents.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JANES, FOWLER, KIRTLAND & CO.

WM. B. FRANKLIN,

*Captain Topog'l Engineers in charge of New Dome.*

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OFFICE UNITED STATES CAPITOL EXTENSION,

*Washington, December 2, 1859.*

SIR: I shall be glad to receive a bid from you for the outside lining of the dome, from the point to which it is now completed to the top of third cast-iron section, embracing the delivery and erection and fitting of all the iron of that part of the dome, except the cast-iron sections and their connections. The price per pound, delivered at the foot of the derrick, to be stated, as well as the price for erecting and fitting, including all bolts, nuts, and screws. The United States to furnish all required staging and hoisting apparatus, and to hoist the work, as supplied, to its place. The slinging or hoisting on the iron, as delivered at the foot of the derrick, to be done by men employed and paid by the United States, the bidder to receive the iron once hoisted, and to unslung and stow the same away. Should a second hoist be needed, the bidder is to sling, and the United States merely to hoist by the engine power.

The same with regard to the outer lining of the part of the dome below that finished.

I shall also be glad to receive a bid from you for furnishing, at the Capitol workshop, the castings for the three sections of the frame and the lower part of the dome above specified, giving the price per pound.

In all of these bids, it is to be understood that the United States is to be at no expense for this work beyond that specified in the bids; and the certificate of the receiver is to be the basis upon which payments are to be made.

Payments on the work delivered will be made from time to time, as it is received. For work erected, payments will be made when that undertaken under the bid shall have been completed.

The deliveries are to commence by the 1st of May, 1860, and are to continue from that time, as they may be required by me, until the whole weight required is furnished.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Captain Topographical Engineers, in charge of*

J. M. REED, Esq.,

*President Architectural Iron-Works.*

OFFICE UNITED STATES CAPITOL EXTENSION,  
*Washington, December 3, 1859.*

SIR: In compliance with your verbal request of the 23d ultimo, I have asked for bids from Messrs. Janes, Fowler, Kirtland & Co., and from Mr. J. M. Reed, of the Architectural Iron Works, New York, for the iron work of the new dome. I have only received one from the first-named firm, and it is inclosed herewith.

As the drawings were new to me, I have only had time to examine those for the three first sections of the cast-iron framing and the cover above the part already erected, embracing a height of thirty-one feet, and including all of the vertical part of the outside finish. I have asked the bidders above referred to for bids on that part of the work, and for the part below what has already been erected.

Messrs. Janes, Fowler, Kirtland & Co. bid *three* cents per pound for the cast-iron frame-work, delivered at the shop of the Capitol works, and *six* cents for the outer casing or skin of the dome. They also bid seven cents per pound for the whole finish of the dome throughout. This bid, however, was not asked for by me, and is voluntary on their part.

As these gentlemen have already furnished the cover or finish of the dome at the same price as that now offered by them, their bid for this is not unreasonable. But the price bid for the cast-iron frames is five-eighth cent higher than that paid for similar work now up, and strikes me as being too high. I think it can be obtained for two and three-eighth cents per pound, by throwing it open to competition, and only taking bids from responsible firms. I believe this course will be the best, taking all things into consideration.

The quantity of iron for the frame of the dome, called for by this bid, is not far from eight hundred thousand pounds, which, at three cents per pound, amounts to \$24,000. The quantity of the skin or outside covering is about eight hundred thousand pounds also, which, at six cents per pound, amounts to \$48,000. The total amount involved by the bid is about seventy-two thousand dollars.

Mr. Reed intended to have his bid in this morning by eleven o'clock; but as I have not heard from him to-day,\* and as you expressed a desire to have the bids in this morning, I transmit Messrs. Janes, Fowler, Kirtland & Co.'s bid alone.

I, however, respectfully suggest that, if possible, a decision with regard to this question be withheld for a day or two, that Mr. Reed may have an opportunity to make his bid.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Captain of Topographical Engineers, in charge of New Dome.*

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,

*Secretary of War.*

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\*Mr. Reed afterwards informed the department that, after investigation of the subject, he had made up his mind to put in no bid for the dome work.



The preceding report and inclosure were returned from the War Department with an indorsement, of which the following is a copy:

WAR DEPARTMENT, *December 5, 1859.*

As one of the propositions of Messrs. Janes, Fowler, Kirtland, & Co. contemplates not only furnishing the iron work complete, but also the putting of it up, as it will be required in the construction of the new dome, thus relieving the government of much expense in labor and machinery, and of great responsibility; and as said parties have heretofore, on the same work, given satisfactory evidence of their capacity and reliability, I am of the opinion that an acceptance of that proposition would, in every respect, be true economy, and the best that could be done for the safe and acceptable progress of the work. But, inasmuch as that proposition embraces the whole structure, for the completion of which this department has not the authority now to provide, it cannot be accepted.

If, however, the said parties will so agree, the engineer in charge is hereby authorized and directed to purchase from them, at seven cents per pound, the iron work complete and put up, referred to in his letter of the 3d instant, herewith.

JOHN B. FLOYD,  
*Secretary of War.*

Captain FRANKLIN.

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OFFICE UNITED STATES CAPITOL EXTENSION,  
*Washington, December 6, 1859.*

GENTLEMEN: Your letter of the 2d instant, making an offer to furnish and erect the iron work of the dome, as specified in my letter to you of the 1st instant, and also offering to furnish and erect all of the iron work of the dome, at seven cents per pound, has been laid before the honorable Secretary of War, who has directed me to accept your offer at seven (7) cents per pound, for so much of the work as was referred to in my letter to you, above quoted, with the distinct understanding that when orders are given to you for the construction of the part of the dome not included in that part of the work, (being the whole of the upper part,) you are to furnish and erect it at the same price per pound, viz: seven (7) cents.

Payments will be made to you monthly, after the commencement of the erection of the work, the basis of which will be the weight of iron erected on the dome, as determined by measurements made by the officer in charge of the work; a reservation of fifteen per cent. being made in each payment, to insure the completion according to the terms of this understanding.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Captain Topographical Engineers, in Charge New Dome.*

MESSRS. JANES, FOWLER, KIRTLAND, & Co.,

*No. 356 Broadway, New York city, N. Y.*

WASHINGTON, *December 7, 1859.*

SIR: Your letter of the 6th instant, accepting our bid to build the entire dome, we consider satisfactory, but would most respectfully request you to reconsider the mode of payment therein proposed. You will observe, by reference to ours of the 2d instant, we propose (as has been the case heretofore under Captain Meigs) to be paid by the pound, on delivery of the castings, and the remaining balance when the work is put up in its place. In order to obtain sufficient means to carry forward this great work with dispatch, and in view of the large outlay of money by us in its commencement before we can realize from government, it is of the utmost importance to us that our arrangements should be such as to enable us to receive our pay when we commence delivering as fast as possible. We therefore propose that you alter or amend the mode of payment as follows, viz: allow us on delivery of the frame-work of the dome four and one half cents per pound, ( $4\frac{1}{2}$ ), and on the putting up the same the remaining two and one half cents per pound; and allow us on the delivery of the skin of the dome five cents per pound, and the remaining two cents when put up in place, payments to be made for putting up the work as it progresses: say, when sufficient has been erected to amount to from five to ten thousand dollars, and that you make, as heretofore, no reservation for percentage to be retained.

Very respectfully, your obedient servants,

JANES, FOWLER, KIRTLAND & CO.

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Capt. of Top'l Eng's, in Charge of New Dome.*

OFFICE UNITED STATES CAPITOL EXTENSION,  
*Washington, December 7, 1859.*

GENTLEMEN: I have received your letter of this date. I have no objection to paying you as you propose, viz: to pay you on delivery of the frame-work of the dome four and one half cents per pound, and when it shall have been erected, two and one half cents per pound; also, to pay you on delivery of the skin of the dome five cents per pound, and when it shall have been erected, two cents per pound. Payments are to be made for the erection of the work as it progresses, whenever the sum of five thousand dollars or more shall have become due.

In all payments a reservation of fifteen per cent. shall be made until the amount reserved shall amount to fifteen thousand dollars, when that amount only shall be retained until the work is completed.

It is understood that no order is given for any other work than that specified in my letter of the 1st instant, but that you hold yourselves bound to do the remainder of the iron-work of the dome when the order shall have been given, and that the conditions as to hoisting,

scaffolding, &c., are the same as those of the order you are now executing.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Capt. of Top'l Eng's, in Charge of New Dome.*

Messrs. JAMES, FOWLER, KIRTLAND & CO.,

356 Broadway, New York.

OFFICE UNITED STATES CAPITOL EXTENSION,

*Washington, December 13, 1859.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that, in obedience to the order of the department of the 5th instant, I have ordered from Messrs. Janes, Fowler, Kirtland & Co. the iron-work for the lower part of the dome, and for the three sections above the part now erected, at seven cents per pound.

In reading more attentively the order of the department on this subject, I find that the bid of Messrs. Janes, Fowler, Kirtland & Co., if accepted, is supposed to relieve "the government of much expense in labor and machinery, and of great responsibility."

In examining their bid I find that they offer to furnish the material and do the work at seven cents per pound, "exclusive only of staging and hoisting, as before expressed." By staging, all of the necessary scaffolding is meant, and in a work of such great height this is an item of no small expense. As the United States is to do the hoisting, and is to furnish the scaffolding, it is evident that the main responsibility of the work still rests with the government, in fact, that the government has precisely the same expense and risk that it now has under the order by which Messrs. Janes, Fowler, Kirtland & Co. are erecting the work now in hand at six cents per pound.

I have therefore thought that the department may be under a misapprehension as to the terms of this bid of Messrs. Janes, Fowler, Kirtland & Co., and have considered it proper to lay the foregoing facts before it. I have the more reason for thinking that the department has misapprehended the state of the case, because Mr. Fowler, before making the bid which was transmitted to the department had endeavored to convince me that he had contracted with Captain Meigs for the whole dome at six cents per pound, and was anxious to get the work at that price on the conditions previously quoted, viz: that the United States should furnish the scaffolding and do the hoisting.

Having no idea that the department intended to consider the bid for the whole work, I did not refer to it in my letter of transmission of the 3d instant, except to say that it was not asked for.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Capt. of Top'l Eng's, in Charge of New Dome.*

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,

*Secretary of War.*

OFFICE NEW DOME OF THE CAPITOL,  
*Washington, January 20, 1860.*

GENTLEMEN: I have been informed by the War Department that your offer of the 2d of December last, to furnish the iron-work of the dome, at seven cents per pound, the United States to do all the hoisting, and furnish all of the scaffolding, was misapprehended by the department, when I was directed on December 5, last, to purchase certain of the work from you at that price.

The department, in its decision, was under the impression that your offer covered the cost of hoisting and scaffolding, and gave the order to me with that understanding.

From this view of the case, it becomes my duty to inform that you will be expected either to do the hoisting, and furnish the scaffolding at your own expense, and then receive the seven cents per pound, according to the terms already indicated, or you can furnish and erect the iron-work already ordered, according to the tenor of your special bid, for that work contained in your letter above referred to, receiving therefor, six cents per pound, the United States to do the hoisting, and furnishing the scaffolding.

The drawings are ready, or will be so to-morrow, and I shall be glad to hear from you at once on the subject.

I shall be glad to know the precise section of the No. 1 sash bar, referred to in your letter of the 19th instant.

Very respectfully your obedient servant,

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Captain Topographical Engineers, in charge of New Dome.*

MESSTRS. JANES, FOWLER, KIRTLAND & Co.,

*No. 356, Broadway, New York.*

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NEW YORK, *January 21, 1860.*

SIR: Yours of the 20th instant was duly received, contents noted. There are some inquiries we should like to make before giving a definite answer, our Mr. Fowler will leave here for Washington on Monday morning, and we have no doubt the matter you speak of can then be satisfactorily arranged. He would send you the sketch of the sash you speak of by this mail, but it is out at the foundry, and will forward you by mail on Monday.

Respectfully, yours,

JANES, FOWLER, KIRTLAND & CO.

WM. B. FRANKLIN,

*Captain Topographical Engineers, in charge of New Dome.*

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NEW YORK, *January 24, 1860.*

DEAR SIR: We are sorry that our offer for the work of the dome was not understood at the War Department, and that the bargain which has been recently made with us for that work was supposed to cover the staging and hoisting. We intended to be explicit on that head,

and thought that it was the desire of the department that said staging and hoisting should be furnished by government, as it has always been before, throughout the work. We are first informed by your letter of the 20th instant that the War Department was differently impressed in this matter, and, as we have ever been willing to correct any mistakes and to yield what might often with propriety be considered as our just due, for the purpose of promoting harmony and good fellowship in the great work in which we are engaged, we now signify our consent, so to amend our bargain with government as to make it cover the said staging and hoisting; that is to say:

We will take such machinery and material as are now in use on the dome, belonging to the United States, and to use it in erecting their work. The machinery and material are to belong to the United States, but is to be used by us, and all expenses of repairs, alterations, removals, and for new machinery and scaffolding are to be borne by us, after we have finished the work contracted for by Captain Meigs. The work contracted for by you to be executed by us according to the above terms, and all the machinery and material now on hand is to be turned over to the United States, when we have finished our contract.

Very respectfully, yours,

JANES, FOWLER, KIRTLAND & CO.

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Captain Topog'l Engineers, in charge of New Dome.*

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OFFICE NEW DOME OF CAPITOL,  
Washington, January 27, 1860.

GENTLEMEN: I have received your letter of the 24th instant, in which you express your willingness to "consent so to amend your bargain with government as to make it cover the said staging and hoisting," &c.

I shall recommend the department to approve the agreement as amended, provided certain other requirements are consented to by you, which, in my opinion, are necessary to carry out the spirit of the agreement, and which could not be mentioned in a letter as general as that from me to you, of the 20th instant.

These are:

First. The United States shall be empowered to use the scaffolding, to do whatever painting may be required, without cost.

Second. Whenever the iron work of the upper sections of the dome shall be ordered, the bronze figure to surmount the dome, and its pedestal, shall be erected without cost to the United States, except for such scaffolding and hoisting apparatus as may be particularly necessary for such erection; and the time of the men employed in hoisting and erecting it shall be paid for by the United States, with ten per cent. in addition. It is to be understood that the scaffolding and hoisting apparatus *above* the iron work of the dome are referred to above.

Third. Upon the completion of the iron work that may be ordered from you, all of the scaffolding and hoisting apparatus must be removed

from the dome and roof of the Capitol at your expense, and must be delivered to the United States on the ground, under the direction of the engineer in charge.

Fourth. All designs for scaffolding and hoisting apparatus must be submitted to the engineer in charge, and approved by him, before they are adopted; or, if preferred by you, the designs will be made in this office.

Fifth. The engineer in charge is to indicate what parts of the work should be carried on to the exclusion of other parts, and he is to be the judge of the speed with which the work is to be prosecuted.

Sixth. The temporary roof to be placed at the top of the work now up shall be furnished and erected by the United States, but it shall be taken down, when required, after the completion of the work, by you, at your expense.

Be good enough to inform me whether you consent to these requirements.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Captain Top. Eng., in charge New Dome of Capitol.*

MESSRS. JAMES, FOWLER, KIRTLAND & Co.,

*No. 356, Broadway, New York.*

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NEW YORK, *January 31, 1860.*

DEAR SIR: Your letter of 27th instant is duly received, and, in reply, we have to say, that we cannot agree to the supplemental terms suggested in said letter. The order given us by you, under date of 6th ultimo, was full and complete, and we had the right to insist on its fulfillment; but when informed by you, under date of 20th instant, that the Secretary of War was under a misapprehension in reference to the staging and hoisting, we immediately yielded our right to demand of government the building of said staging and hoisting, and consented so to revise our bargain as to put the expense, enormous as it will be, entirely upon us, while, at the same time, we knew that our bargain was too low without it; but our desire has always been to make all our bargains satisfactory to those with whom we deal; and, with this view, we concluded to take upon ourselves this great expense without complaint, and with the best possible grace. And, in order that there might be no future misunderstanding, our Mr. Fowler got you to give him in writing exactly what you wanted us to propose as the revision of our bargain, which you did; and our proposition of the 24th instant is in your own words. Notwithstanding we gave it to you exactly as you indicated, you suggest, under date of 27th instant, additional exactions, such as we never can consent to; nor could we consent to them were the price ten times as much as it is. You require that the designs for the scaffolding and hoisting apparatus shall be submitted to the engineer in charge before executed, and be subject to his approval. This puts us entirely in his hands, and he may, if he chooses, make these adjuncts to the work cost more than the work itself. While

we shall always be glad of your suggestions and approval, we shall claim to make the scaffolding as best suits our purpose; and, also, to pursue such a system of hoisting as our own experience may, from time to time, dictate as the most efficient for the speedy prosecution of the work. The work, itself, we shall of course hold subject to your entire approval; but the tools, the machinery of all kinds, and the workmen with which we execute the same, must be at our own disposal. Again, you claim for the engineer in charge the right to direct the speed with which the work is to be prosecuted. This would give him power to demand the execution of any portion of it that he may suggest in a shorter time than it would be possible to do the work, or he may order it to go along so slow as to put us to great cost and inconvenience.

We understand there is money enough on hand to pay for the work now ordered of us; and we understand that it is the desire of all that the work shall be pushed as fast as possible, and it is our taste, as well as interest, to urge it on with the utmost rapidity. We are, therefore, at a loss to know why we should yield up all our rights in this particular to the engineer in charge, while at the same time we shall always take pleasure in following out his suggestions and taking his advice to any reasonable extent.

As it regards the painting and the placing the statue on the dome, we ought by this time to be well enough known at the Capitol to put to rest all doubt as to our disposition to accommodate government, and every body else, as far as lies in our power; hence, we consider it unnecessary to bind us by articles to live in good fellowship with government, and to be civil to them with whom we are brought in contact. We are satisfied to abide by our proposition of 24th instant; that is to say, take the scaffolding and hoisting upon ourselves, which offer, we consider, should be satisfactory to you, as it was in your own words. We think the bargain quite hard enough as it is; but we are willing to abide by it in good faith, subject to the same supervision by the engineer in charge as all other work we have done has been.

Very, respectfully, your obedient servant,

JANES, FOWLER, KIRKLAND & CO.

WM. B. FRANKLIN,

*Capt. Top. Engineers, in charge of New Dome,  
Washington, D. C.*

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OFFICE NEW DOME OF CAPITOL,  
*Washington, February 3, 1860.*

GENTLEMEN: I have received your letter of the 31st ultimo, in which you decline to accede to the requirements of my letter of the 27th ultimo.

In requiring the approval of the scaffolding and hoisting apparatus by the engineer in charge, my only object was to relieve you from the responsibility which would arise in case of accident to the work from failure of the scaffolding or hoisting apparatus. After my approval,

any accident which would occur to the building in case of a failure of the apparatus would be due to my negligence, and not yours. Somebody must be responsible for these things. I would not attempt nor desire to dictate what scaffolding or what hoisting apparatus should be used; but I must reserve the right to decide as to their strength; and this is all that was meant by that requirement.

I must reserve the right to determine what parts of the work shall be prosecuted. The assertion that such a reservation gives the engineer the "power to demand the execution of any portion of it that he may suggest, in a shorter time than it would be possible to do the work," as stated by you, could only become practical if the engineer was entirely unacquainted with his business or wished to annoy you; whereas, if the engineer has no right to direct what parts shall be constructed, you, by the terms of the agreement, have the power to send all of the iron-work here and receive payment for it before you commence the erection of any of it.

A proper spirit in both parties will certainly render this requirement easier to bear than it may at first sight appear.

With regard to the hoisting of the bronze statue, and the use of the scaffolding for the painters employed by the United States, I have only to say that these and all other things required were specified in order that, as Mr. Fowler stated to me, there might be no misunderstanding between us while the work is in progress.

All of the requirements of my letter of the 27th ultimo are, in my opinion, necessary on the part of the United States for its protection, in an agreement involving the expenditure of so large a sum of money; particularly when it is considered that the engineer in charge, and all other persons connected with the business on the part of the United States, may not be here through the performance of the agreement; and the persons of your firm may change also.

If, in view of the statements contained in this letter, you still decline to accede to the requirements of my letter of the 27th ultimo, be good enough to return me all drawings which have been sent you relating to the parts of the work embraced in the agreement, as other arrangements will have to be made.

I consider it proper to state to you that, in insisting upon the terms of my letter of the 27th ultimo, I am only actuated by the desire to act fairly to both parties; and I believe that I would be recreant to my duty as an officer in charge of an important work were I to attempt to carry it on under an agreement made loosely, involving the expenditure of so large a sum of money.

I have no doubt of the desire of your firm to carry on the work in the same spirit of kindness and good will that you have hitherto manifested; but, while I am assured of this, I know that where the matters I have indicated are left undecided, disputes and misunderstandings are sure to arise. A fair understanding at the commencement, laid down in terms about which there can be no mistake, will prevent these; and this I have attempted to bring about.

There will be no necessity for sending you drawing 1942, asked for



in your letter of the 31st ultimo, this day received, until I hear from you again on this subject.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Captain Topographical Engineers in charge of New Dome.*

Messrs. JAMES, FOWLER, KIRTLAND, & Co.,

*No. 356 Broadway, New York.*

NEW YORK, *February 7, 1860.*

DEAR SIR: Yours of 3d instant came to hand by yesterday's mail, and we are pleased to understand, by the explanations contained therein, that we are not likely to be embarrassed by the requirements of yours of the 27th.

We concur fully in your views, of the importance of having such matters settled in plain terms; and believing your requirements in the revision of our contract with the United States to be made for our future mutual advantage, we are induced to accede to them in the same spirit in which they are proposed.

There are, however, some minor matters which, we think, upon looking them over, you will agree with us, should be changed, viz: we are required to take down and deliver to the United States, on the completion of the work, all the scaffolding, &c.; we cannot suppose that it is meant that we should deliver over to the United States that part of the staging, &c., which have been furnished at our own expense, under the revision of our contract. 2d. We are required to take down the roof, which is to be erected by the United States. We think we should be allowed the cost, at least, of such work, and that there should be a provision for payment, by the United States, of the expenses, similar to that providing for the erection of the bronze figure. We will, however, leave these matters to yourself, believing you will see the propriety of the changes suggested.

We remain, dear sir, your obedient servants,

JAMES, FOWLER, KIRTLAND & CO.

WM. B. FRANKLIN,

*Captain of Top'l Engineers, in charge of New Dome.*

OFFICE NEW DOME OF THE CAPITOL,

*Washington, February 9, 1860.*

GENTLEMEN: I have received your letter of the 7th instant. I did not intend to convey the idea, by my letter of the 27th ultimo, that you were to deliver to the United States any scaffolding or hoisting apparatus erected and furnished by yourselves. I only intended that everything furnished by the United States should be returned.

With regard to the roof, I have to state that its erection by the United States will be a great assistance to you in constructing the work, and that it can only be put up at all if it does not interfere with

your hoisting arrangements. The matter will then stand thus: The United States assists you by furnishing a roof which will make an excellent scaffold and foundations for a traversing crane. Why, then, after the work is completed, should you be further assisted by getting paid for taking down work which will have already saved you a great deal of money, and which the United States has furnished you without compensation, other than that derived from the increased light and space it gives to the rotunda?

I cannot, therefore, consent to reimburse you for taking the contemplated roof down.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Captain of Top'l Engineers, in charge of New Dome.*

MESSRS. JANES, FOWLER, KIRTLAND & Co.,

*No. 356, Broadway, New York.*

NEW YORK, *February 11, 1860.*

DEAR SIR: Yours 9th instant received. We assent to your views about payment for taking down the contemplated roof, and, under the circumstances, will not desire to be reimbursed for the same.

Respectfully, yours,

JANES, FOWLER, KIRTLAND & CO.

Mr. Wm. B. FRANKLIN,

*Engineer in charge of New Dome, &c., Washington, D. C.*

OFFICE OF NEW DOME OF CAPITOL,

*Washington, February 14, 1860.*

SIR: Messrs. Janes, Fowler, Kirtland & Co., in two letters, dated the 7th and 11th instant, express their willingness to accede to certain requirements made by me in a letter to them dated the 27th ultimo; a copy of which is herewith inclosed. I believe that the bargain, made with this understanding, will be conducive to the interests of the United States; and I therefore recommend its approval by the Department, subject to their requirements, and to those with regard to payments and reservation of ten per cent. hitherto enforced in dealings with them with regard to the dome work.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Captain Topographical Engineers in charge of New Dome.*

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,

*Secretary of War.*

WAR DEPARTMENT, *February 15, 1860.*

The within recommendation of the engineer in charge of the new dome is approved.

J. B. FLOYD,

*Secretary of War.*

OFFICE NEW DOME OF THE CAPITOL,  
Washington, January 27, 1860.

DEAR SIR: Will you be good enough to inform me at what price you will deliver here, free of freight, 150 running feet of T rail, small size, like that supplied for the Washington aqueduct in February, 1858, with hook spikes sufficient to lay it down?

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. FRANKLIN,  
*Captain Topographical Engineers in charge of New Dome.*  
SAMUEL J. REEVES, Esq.,  
*Vice-President and Treas. Phoenix Iron Co.,*  
*No. 410 Walnut street, Philadelphia, Pa.*

PHILADELPHIA, January 9, 1860.

DEAR SIR: I have to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 7th instant, and, in reply to your inquiry, would inform you that the price of the rails specified is \$60 per ton (2,240 pounds) delivered in this city, and the spikes,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  by  $\frac{7}{16}$ , four cents per pound. To this the freight to Washington would be added, which, I am informed, is about \$5 40 per ton, net. Could supply both rails and spikes in a few days after receiving the order, having them now on hand.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SAMUEL J. REEVES,  
*Vice President.*

W. B. FRANKLIN, Esq.,  
*Capt. Top'l Engineers in charge of New Dome, Washington.*

OFFICE NEW DOME OF CAPITOL,  
Washington, January 10, 1860.

DEAR SIR: Please furnish the T rail and spikes as indicated in my letter to you of the 7th instant; I will pay the freight here.

In your letter of the 9th instant you do not mention whether the price is the cash price, or whether there is a deduction for cash.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. FRANKLIN,  
*Captain Topographical Engineers in charge of New Dome.*  
S. J. REEVES, Esq.,  
*Vice-President and Treas. Phoenix Iron Co.,*  
*No. 410 Walnut street, Philadelphia, Pa.*

PHILADELPHIA, *January 11, 1860.*

DEAR SIR: Your esteemed favor of the 10th January is duly received. Your order shall have prompt attention. The price stated in ours of the 9th instant is *net cash*. We always quote "net cash prices," unless stipulated to the contrary.

Respectfully,

JAMES MILLIKEN,  
*Secretary Phoenix Iron Co.*

W. B. FRANKLIN, Esq.,

*Capt. of Top'l Engineers, in charge of New Dome,  
Washington, D. C.*

OFFICE OF NEW DOME OF CAPITOL,  
*Washington, January 9, 1860.*

DEAR SIR: I understand that you have on the Washington aqueduct a quantity of strap rail which you may perhaps have no use for. This would answer well to make a track necessary for a derrick on the dome, and I shall be glad to have 400 feet of it transferred to the dome at the price it cost the aqueduct, if you have no objection to the transfer.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. FRANKLIN,  
*Capt. Top'l Engineers, in charge of New Dome.*

Capt. M. C. MEIGS,

*U. S. Corps of Engineers, in charge of Wash. Aqueduct,  
Washington, D. C.*

In accordance with the above request, Captain Meigs transferred to the dome one ton and 745 pounds of strap rail, at \$50 per ton, making a cost of \$66 62.

OFFICE NEW DOME OF CAPITOL,  
*Washington, January 16, 1860.*

GENTLEMEN: Have you on hand any iron sash of these precise patterns? If you have, how much do you ask for it per pound, and how many pounds are there to the running foot?

There will be required about 2,100 feet of No. 1, and 1,300 feet of No. 2.

The most convenient lengths will be 15 feet.

Respectfully, &c.,

W. B. FRANKLIN,  
*Capt. of Top'l Engineers, in charge of New Dome.*

Messrs. JANES, FOWLER, KIRTLAND & Co.,  
*No. 356 Broadway, New York.*

No. 1.

No. 2.

For patterns see original.

NEW YORK, *January 19, 1860.*

DEAR SIR: Yours received. We have the No. 1 sash-iron on hand, which we imported for our own use, but none of the No. 2. The bars are over 15 feet long. The No. 1 weights slightly over one and a half pounds per foot. If this sash-iron is intended for wood frames, we do not think the single rebate iron No. 2, is necessary. We have usually used wood molding, tacked on the wood frame for the side rebates. It was only where we had to insert in iron frames, or that we had not the wood frames at hand, that it was found necessary to use this half-rebate iron for framing the iron-sash in. We usually had small plates riveted on the ends of the bars, and those plates sunk flush in the timber of the frame, and the outside moldings of wood tacked on after to hold the glass, marked X below; B is the iron plate sunk flush in the wood frame. Cast-iron rebates could be put in place of wood, if preferred. We will let you have the No. 1 iron, if wanted, at  $4\frac{3}{4}$  cents per pound.

Respectfully yours,

JANES, FOWLER, KIRTLAND & CO.

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Washington, D. C.*

NEW YORK, *January 20, 1860.*

DEAR SIR: We omitted to mention in ours of the 19th instant, that we could import from Europe, if wanted, the No. 2 sash-iron, at the same price as the No. 1, and have it here in four months time.

Respectfully yours,

JANES, FOWLER, KIRTLAND & CO.

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Washington, D. C.*

OFFICE NEW DOME OF THE CAPITOL,  
*Washington, January 20, 1860.*

GENTLEMEN: Please inform me if you make sash-bar; and, if so, be good enough to send me a sketch of the sizes, stating the price, and also the weight per foot.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Captain Top. Engineers, in charge of New Dome.*

MESSRS. COOPER, HEWITT & Co.,

*17 Burling Slip, New York.*

NEW YORK, *January 23, 1860.*

DEAR SIR: Your favor of the 20th instant is received. We make sash-bars of the sections inclosed, numbered 1 and 2. The weight of

No. 1 is 1 pound 6 ounces ( $1\frac{3}{8}$  pound) per lineal foot, nearly. The weight of No. 2 is about  $1\frac{1}{16}$  pounds per lineal foot. The price of these bars is (\$100) one hundred dollars per ton, 2,240 pounds, in New York or Philadelphia.

We also inclose section of a fence bar, marked 3, which we suppose may be useful in designing the balconies, if any there be, in the dome. The price of this bar is (80) eighty dollars per ton, 2,240 pounds; weight 2.27 pounds per foot.

We also make various sections of purlin bars and iron beams, which we will be glad to supply you with as required.

\* \* \* \* \*

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

COOPER, HEWITT & CO.

W. B. FRANKLIN, *Captain Top. Eng'rs,*

*In charge of New Dome, Washington D. C.*

P. S.—The sash-bars were made after the design of Major G. T. Beauregard, United States engineers, for the New Orleans custom-house, in which they have been extensively used.

C., H. & CO.

OFFICE NEW DOME OF THE CAPITOL,

*Washington, January 20, 1860.*

SIR: Please inform me if your company make sash-bar; and if so, be good enough to send me a sketch of the sizes, stating the price, and also the weight per foot.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Captain of Topog'l Engineers in charge of the New Dome.*

SAMUEL J. REEVES, Esq.,

*Vice President and Treas'r Phoenix Iron Company,*

*No. 410 Walnut street, Philadelphia, Pa.*

OFFICE OF THE PHOENIX IRON COMPANY,

*410 Walnut street, Philadelphia, January 21, 1860.*

DEAR SIR: In compliance with your request, I have the honor to forward plates and price current for your information.

Respecting the sash-bar, I would state that we have rolls only for two sizes, marked Nos. 3 and 4 on plate A, and the prices are respectively twelve and fifteen cents per foot.

If there should be any special sections of iron required in your department not made by us I would like to have drawings of them, in case you desire to order them of us. Any new thing, where the quan-

tity is not considerable, of course will cost extra in the beginning, and afterwards less by the difference in cost of preparation.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SAMUEL J. REEVES,  
*Vice President.*

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Captain of Top. Engineers in charge of New Dome,  
Washington, D. C.*

OFFICE OF NEW DOME OF CAPITOL,  
*Washington, January 23, 1860.*

GENTLEMEN: Have you on hand any sash-iron? If you have, please send me a drawing of the section, the price per pound, and weight per foot. I wish to get about 2,300 feet whole section, and 1,300 feet half section.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. B. FRANKLIN,  
*Captain Top. Engineers in charge of New Dome.*

MESSRS. W. BAILEY LANG & Co.,  
*No. 54 Cliff street, New York.*

NEW YORK, *January 26, 1860.*

DEAR SIR: We regret we cannot reply favorably to yours of 23d instant, asking for sash iron.

There is not in this market a pound to be found; none now coming here unless specially imported from England.

Not knowing if you may not prefer this method of getting your supply, we inclose drawings of shapes having sections of sash irons thereon; your order for which we shall esteem. The time consumed to get a supply would be something like eight weeks. The price we could not now determine upon, as we have not the maker's list, it being so rarely called for, but we could make that quite satisfactory upon delivery.

Respectfully yours,

W. BAILEY LANG & CO.

W. B. FRANKLIN, Esq.,

*Capt. Top. Engineers in charge of New Dome, Washington, D. C.*

OFFICE NEW DOME OF CAPITOL,  
*Washington, January 23, 1860.*

GENTLEMEN: Have you on hand any sash iron? If you have, please send me a drawing of the section, the price per pound, and weight per foot. I wish to get about 2,300 feet whole section, and 1,300 feet half section.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. FRANKLIN,  
*Capt. of Top. Engineers, in charge of New Dome*

MESSRS. MORRIS, WHEELER & Co.,

*Successors to Morris, Jones & Co.,*

*Market and 16th streets, Philadelphia, Pa.*

PHILADELPHIA, *January 25, 1860.*

DEAR SIR: Your esteemed favor of 23d instant is at hand, and we thank you for remembering us. We have no iron of the description you want, nor facilities for making it. The only parties in this city who are likely to furnish it, is the Phoenix Iron Company. If they cannot give you the pattern you desire, we shall be happy to import it for you.

Respectfully,

MORRIS, WHEELER & CO.

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Captain of Topographical Engineers, in charge of New Dome,  
Washington, D. C.*

OFFICE NEW DOME OF CAPITOL,  
*Washington, January 23, 1860.*

SIR: Have you on hand any sash iron? If you have, please send me a drawing of the section, the price per pound, and weight per foot. I wish to get about 2,300 feet whole section and 1,300 feet half section.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Capt. of Top'l Eng'rs, in charge of New Dome.*

J. M. REED, Esq., *President Architectural Iron Works,*

*No. 42 Duane street New York.*

ARCHITECTURAL IRON WORKS,  
*(13th and 14th streets, near Avenue C,)  
Office 42 Duane street, New York, January 25, 1860.*

SIR: Your favor of 23d is received. I will have drawing made at once of sash iron, as requested, forwarded, with weight, price, &c. We also make a very nice cast-iron sash, which might suit your purpose better than the wrought, perhaps; but as you do not name the purpose you want it for, I cannot judge. I will remark, however, that I shall be in Washington the beginning of next week, and will call on you, and may perhaps give some explanations that will serve your interest in regard to it. I will also take some samples with me.

Very truly,

J. M. REED, *President.*

Captain W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Topographical Engineer, Washington.*

OFFICE NEW DOME OF CAPITOL,  
*Washington, January 26, 1860.*

GENTLEMEN: I have received your letter of the 23d instant.

The sections marked Nos. 1 and 2 will answer the purpose for which I require the sash, and I request that you will send to me, for the new



dome, 2,100 feet of the No. 1, or half section, and 1,300 feet of the No. 2, or whole section. The most convenient lengths will be fifteen feet.

I have noticed the section marked No. 3. It may be of use, and I will remember it.

\* \* \* \* \*

I shall be glad to receive the iron as soon as possible.

Very respectfully your obedient servant,

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Captain of Topographical Engineers.*

Messrs. COOPER, HEWITT & Co., No. 17, *Burling slip*, N. Y.

*Statement of payments on account of the new dome from the commencement of the work to February 17, 1860.*

To whom paid or of whom purchased.	Nature of purchase or expenditure.	Amount.	Total.
Days' workmen.....	Services .....	\$84,042 17	
Z. W. Denham.....	do.....	990 00	
Philip Scragg.....	do.....	84 00	
E. S. Freidrich.....	do.....	60 00	
August Schonborn.....	do.....	1,478 75	
Henry F. Schonborn.....	do.....	928 50	
E. W. Donn.....	do.....	815 00	
F. S. Findlay.....	do.....	394 00	
O. Sonneman.....	do.....	94 00	
G. C. Schaffer.....	do.....	52 00	
Patrick Donohoe.....	do.....	361 25	
Thomas U. Walter.....	do.....	1,125 00	
William T. Bassford.....	do.....	104 00	
Capitol extension.....	Labor, materials, &c.....		\$90,528 67
John Purdy.....	Lumber.....	2,891 37	13,157 58
John G. Smith.....	do.....	149 57	
Joseph Libbey & Son.....	do.....	38 94	
F. Coyle & Bro.....	do.....	560 20	
Edwin Green.....	Mahogany.....	14 74	
S. Bacon & Co.....	Rope.....	102 65	3,654 82
Henry Dreier.....	do.....	189 16	
C. W. Copeland.....	Wire rope.....	2,103 97	
John A. Roebing.....	do.....	738 75	
K. H. Lambell.....	Bricks.....	2,520 02	3,134 53
W. H. Gunnell.....	do.....	1,155 81	
A. & W. Grinder.....	do.....	666 02	
A. & T. Richards.....	do.....	186 99	
John Collins.....	Cleaning bricks.....	11 04	4,528 84
John Mangin.....	do.....	5 25	
James Hughes.....	do.....	1 96	
Patrick Mack.....	do.....	4 71	
Thomas Mason.....	do.....	5 84	
Walter Carroll.....	do.....	3 64	
Daniel Carroll.....	do.....	28 17	
Samuel Carroll.....	do.....	3 02	
Patrick Chancey.....	do.....	22 16	
Thomas Clancey.....	do.....	7 87	
Daniel Cratty.....	do.....	11 63	
W. Brashears.....	do.....	3 45	
Robert King.....	do.....	41 07	
Patrick Nolan.....	do.....	21 74	
John Malone.....	do.....	21 05	
James Spurlin.....	do.....	27 84	
John Harrington.....	do.....	19 87	
Philip Miller.....	do.....	4 59	
Michael Burke.....	do.....	2 80	
William Palmer.....	do.....	5 21	
A. J. Eliason.....	do.....	138 94	
Henry Wilde.....	Cement.....	540 36	391 85
M. W. Woodward.....	do.....	1,711 45	
Charles Wise.....	Freight, wharfage, and hauling.....	138 17	2,251 81
Thomas W. Riley.....	do.....do.....	173 99	
Thomas H. Parsons.....	Freight.....	375 80	
Joseph Swiggart.....	Hauling.....	3 00	

STATEMENT—Continued.

To whom paid or of whom purchased.	Nature of purchase or expenditure.	Amount.	Total.
Decator Oakes.....	Freight.....	\$74 85	\$794 93
A. J. Falls.....	do.....	20 00	
Henry Lewis.....	do.....	9 12	
Robert Farnham.....	Stationery.....	69 05	356 69
Blanchard & Mohun.....	do.....	142 20	
Herschbergunky.....	do.....	6 00	
Taylor & Maury.....	do.....	5 81	
Ames, Herrick & Barnes..	Drawing paper.....	10 50	
Wheelwright, Mudge & Co.....	do.....	85 12	
E. Anthony.....	Saxe paper.....	37 81	
B. Westerman & Co.....	Books.....	155 87	
John Tretler.....	Binding books.....	12 25	
Edward Lycett.....	do.....	14 43	
S. De Camp.....	Index book.....	10 00	192 55
Henry Polkinhorn.....	Printing and ruling blanks.....	70 67	84 42
Thomas McGill.....	do.....do.....	13 75	
J. C. McGuire & Co.....	Office furniture.....	42 38	70 88
James Skirving.....	do.....	28 50	
G. & T. Parker.....	Brooms, buckets, &c.....	55 66	72 66
E. E. White & Co.....	do.....	17 00	
J. H. Colton.....	Brass tubes.....	336 25	341 37
L. H. & G. C. Schneider..	Repairing brass tubes.....	5 12	
McAllister & Brother.....	Instruments.....	35 42	107 42
Wm. Wurdemann.....	do.....	72 00	
Captain M. C. Meigs.....	Transportation.....	26 00	35 37
Charles F. Thomas.....	do.....	9 37	
Enos Ray.....	Forage.....	45 82	160 96
Clark & Brother.....	do.....	90 00	
E. O. Magruder.....	do.....	25 14	
Joseph R. Brognard.....	Cotton duck.....	384 78	406 57
Clagett, Newton, May & Co.....	Dry goods.....	21 79	
Poole & Hunt.....	Cast iron.....	67,894 12	151,471 06
Janes, Beebe & Co.....	do.....	64,324 21	
Janes, Fowler, Kirtland & Co.....	do.....	18,381 00	
Wm. M. Ellis & Bro.....	do.....	825 35	
W. T. Duvall.....	do.....	46 38	
Murray & Hazlehunt.....	Wrought iron.....	6,282 62	
Caleb Buckingham.....	Wrought iron bolts.....	83 28	6,684 50
James Milliken.....	Wrought iron beams.....	318 60	
Campbell & Coyle.....	Iron.....	3,654 82	5,110 80
Morris, Tanner & Co.....	do.....	1,389 36	
Washington Aqueduct....	Iron rail.....	66 62	
Gage, Warner & Whitney	Machinery.....	3,765 30	
C. W. Smith.....	do.....	2,177 50	
R. P. Parrott.....	Hoisting crat.....	955 38	

## STATEMENT—Continued.

To whom paid or of whom purchased.	Nature of purchase or expenditure.	Amount.	Total
G. B. Farnum.....	Hand-planer.....	\$92 50	\$7,144 65
H. R. Worthington.....	Steam piston.....	57 50	
Nason & Dodge.....	Steam gauges.....	96 47	
Joseph L. Savage.....	Hardware.....	147 90	2,420 79
Campbell & Coyle.....	.....do.....	2,212 76	
Campbell & Son.....	.....do.....	60 13	
J. N. McGregor.....	Paints, oils, &c.....	466 94	2,860 08
C. S. Whittlesey.....	.....do.....	1,875 29	
A. Hatch.....	Oil.....	120 40	
H. H. McPherson, jr.....	Oil and vitriol.....	264 48	86 63
W. H. Gilman.....	Shellac and vitriol.....	132 97	
Howell & Morsell.....	Glass.....	85 13	
S. Roe & Co.....	.....do.....	1 50	1,059 38
S. H. Young.....	Wood and coal.....	81 81	
Castleman & Brother.....	Cumberland coal.....	977 57	
W. P. Webb.....	Turning wood.....	19 50	3,623 76
F. Y. Naylor.....	Tin and sheet-iron.....	42 00	
J. W. Thompson & Bro... ..	Plumbing.....	50 02	
H. L. Kendall.....	Screws.....	127 11	1,126 84
Thos. Crawford.....	Model.....	3,000 00	
A. J. French.....	Patent roofing.....	339 80	
Barbara Loudon.....	Making towels.....	3 00	301,860 41
Ann Kernan.....	Washing towels.....	21 32	
John Wood.....	Photographic malts.....	10 01	
N. S. Raymond.....	Drill and rules.....	11 00	398,145 59
James Skirving.....	Coal-burners.....	11 96	
D. F. Tieman.....	Graphite.....	379 51	
J. A. Weston & Co.....	Scales.....	225 00	28,729 89
Washington City P. O....	Postage.....	78 74	
W. B. Walworth.....	Telegraphing.....	2 11	
Lutz & Beall.....	Saddlery.....	41 87	369,415 70
Sam'l Kirby.....	Letter-case.....	15 00	
Dan'l Kernan.....	Omnibus tickets.....	1 50	
A. J. Joyce.....	Buggy.....	70 00	
Thomas Scrivener, att'y...	Office rent.....	83 33	
J. B. Anthony.....	Nuts and washers.....	125 82	
Captain W. B. Franklin...	Commutation.....	92 00	
	Amount appropriated.....	700,000 00	
	Cash received from Gage, Warner & Whitney, for mending machines.	6 00	
	Making.....	700,006 00	
	From which deduct payments...	301,860 41	
	Leaving available.....		
	From which deduct estimated liabilities of dome, viz:		
	Due Janes, Fowler, Kirtland & Co..	22,229 89	
	Due days' workmen.....	5,000 00	
	Due miscellaneous.....	1,500 00	
	Leaving a balance applicable to the further prosecution of the work of.....		369,415 70

APPENDIX C.

*Correspondence in relation to the column shafts of the Capitol Extension.*

LEE, December 8, 1856.

DEAR SIR: \* \* \* \* \*  
 You spoke of altering the columns back to old size. I prefer getting them in two pieces unless you advance on the price from first contract.  
 Yours, very truly,

CHARLES HEEBNER.

M. C. MEIGS, *Capt. of Engr's,*  
*in charge U. S. C. and P. O. Ext's., Washington.*

December 11, 1856.

DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 8th was received yesterday.  
 I have no right to advance the price of the first contract for column blocks.

The second contract was made with the understanding that the quarry would furnish nearly the whole number of column shafts in single blocks, and the condition that a part should be in two blocks was intended to provide a use for those blocks which might be broken in getting out the monolithic shafts so as, for your advantage, to prevent waste.

They were to be used in the retired porticoes, and in places where they would be least conspicuous.

I prefer a column in moderate sized blocks to one in two pieces, and would not have made a contract to get them all in two pieces, or any of them in two pieces, except for the sake of getting the greater part of them in single blocks.

I perceive that, in drawing up the contract with a desire to make it liberal to you, no condition was inserted as to the absolute number that should be monolithic; but you will perfectly remember that it was not intended to be one or two, but as many as possible, understanding that it would be possible to get nearly the whole so.

As this cannot be done, I prefer returning to the old contract, and suppose you will not be disposed to take advantage of a wording which was framed from regard to your interests.

Should you insist upon the literal fulfillment of the contract, which would very much increase the difficulty and the time of getting out these columns, I shall be compelled also to insist upon its literal fulfillment, and require a reasonable proportion of the columns to be monolithic, and all the others to have full two thirds of the shaft in one piece, and then to be delivered within the next two seasons, which is a large advance upon your contract time of three years, as provided in the first contract, and not altered by the second.

In facility of work, and for the speedy completion of the contract and of the buildings, I believe that it is altogether to the advantage of the parties to return for these shafts to the provision of the first

contract, as the fulfillment of the second in its intention is evidently impossible.

I trust that upon reflection you will agree with me.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS.

CHARLES HEEBNER,

*Lee, Massachusetts.*

JUNE 12, 1857.

SIRS: The marble work of the connecting corridors will be commenced shortly, the foundations being well advanced.

It will be necessary to set the back porticoes of these corridors with the walls, as the marble blocks must be brought in from the east, and over the walls.

For this purpose, the column blocks should be sent at once, and even now you will be pressed for time to get them here and not delay the work.

As the quarry has evidently proved incapable of supplying the monolithic shafts, you will send these columns in blocks of not less than four feet in length, according to your first contract.

The pedestals, bases, &c., with the arcade below, should all be hurried on.

I request that you will give immediate attention to this matter.

The columns were ordered last year.

Respectfully,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers.*

RICE, BAIRD & HEEBNER,

*Philadelphia.*

JULY 2, 1857.

DEAR SIR: I inclose a bill of marble for shafts, pedestals, bases, &c., of the outside columns of the Capitol extension, with a tracing of shaft, &c.

Also, a bill of marble for the arcades, of connecting corridors, including their ceilings and the floors of the porticoes.

The remarks in the bills will show you in what order we need this marble, and I must call your attention to the necessity of a vigorous prosecution of this work, that the building may not be delayed, and that your contract may be complied with.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers.*

CHARLES HEEBNER,

*Lee, Berkshire County, Massachusetts.*

PHILADELPHIA, *August 28, 1857.*

DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 2d of July, containing bills of marble of the Capitol extension, came duly to hand. As you have said nothing about the price for the columns, we have deferred answering, with the expectation of hearing further from you on the subject. You are, of course, aware that we have no contract with government for furnishing the columns according to the bill you have sent, which we observe agrees with the specifications on which the original contract was based; but that portion of the old contract was nullified by the subsequent one. We are willing, however, to furnish the columns according to the bill, upon a fair and equitable arrangement as regard to the price. We are of opinion that less than three dollars and seventy-five cents per foot would not pay us at the advanced rate of wages, freight, &c., we have to pay above what we paid when the original contract was entered into, and we would be willing, and do now offer, to furnish them at that price, viz: \$3 75 per cubic foot. The columns of the Girard College, erected in this city, were obtained from quarries situate in the same neighborhood as ours, at \$4 per foot, at a time when labor and freight was at least 50 per cent. cheaper than at present. The price paid at the Patent Office was \$3 20 per foot for an inferior marble to ours, having but 40 miles to freight them, whilst ours have over 600 miles.

We wish to have the matter settled before we proceed with this part of the work, and as our offer is so palpably just, we cannot doubt that you will immediately grant our request.

Yours, respectfully,

JOHN RICE,

*For Rice, Baird & Heebner.*

Captain M. C. MEIGS,

*In charge Capitol Extension, &c.*

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AUGUST 31, 1857.

DEAR SIR: I inclose a copy of a letter received from Mr. John Rice, of your firm, in relation to the contract for marble, and request to be informed whether this is the action of Mr. Rice, or of the firm, and whether you agree with him in the position here taken.

An early answer is desirable, as there has been already a delay, which is a failure to supply the marble for columns, according to the terms of the contract.

Respectfully,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers.*

Mr. CHARLES HEEBNER,

*Of the firm of Rice, Baird & Heebner,*

*Contractors for marble, Capitol Extension.*

LEE, *September 2, 1857.*

DEAR SIR: Your favor of 31st came duly to hand. I saw the letter, a copy of which you sent me. As the matter had been turned over to Mr. Rice to negotiate, I preferred to leave the whole matter to him, and so wrote him. I have avoided having any negotiating in the matter since placed in Mr. Rice's hands. I will abide his conclusion.

Yours, truly,

CHAS. HEEBNER.

Capt. M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain Engineers in charge U. S. Capitol  
and Post Office Extensions, Washington.*

AUGUST 31, 1857.

DEAR SIR: I inclose a copy of a letter received from Mr. John Rice, of your firm, in relation to the contract for marble, and request to be informed whether this is the action of Mr. Rice or of the firm, and whether you agree with him in the position here taken.

An early answer is desirable, as there has been already a delay which is a failure to supply the marble for columns, according to the terms of the contract.

Respectfully,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain of Engineers.*

Mr. JOHN BAIRD,

*Of the firm of Rice, Baird & Heebner,  
Contractors for marble, Capitol Extension.*

PHILADELPHIA, *September 4, 1857.*

DEAR SIR: Yours of 31st ultimo was received, inclosing copy of letter August 28, from Mr. John Rice, for Rice, Baird & Heebner, in relation to the contract for furnishing marble for the Capitol extension, &c. You wish me to inform you whether said letter was the action of the firm. In reply, I can only say that I parted with my interest in said contract and quarries at Lee, Massachusetts, by transferring to John Rice and Charles Heebner, in the fall of 1853, my name still remaining to the contract. I, therefore, have no interest in said contract further than my liabilities for the completion of the same.

Early in the spring of 1854, you made a supplementary contract with Rice & Heebner, which I supposed at the time superseded the former contract, and from that time until the present I have had no knowledge of the business arrangements relating to said work, and I presumed the work was progressing in a satisfactory manner.

Your order of July 2, which Mr. Rice refers to in his letter, I had no knowledge of.

You will readily perceive the position I occupy, and as I have no participation in the management or profits to arise from said contract, I



do not wish to be placed in a position to make a loss; and should a question arise by which I should be placed under obligations to the government, I would respectfully request to have notice.

Yours truly,

JOHN BAIRD,  
*P. W. W. R. T.*

Capt. M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain of Engineers, U. S. Capitol Extension, &c.*

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SEPTEMBER 5, 1857.

DEAR SIR: Messrs. Rice, Baird & Heebner made a supplemental contract with the United States by which they undertook to furnish marble in larger beds and blocks, and to furnish as many monolithic column shafts as their quarry would produce; and all the rest in two blocks each, of which one was to be two thirds the whole length.

The old contract to remain in force, except where modified as to size and price of blocks by the new one.

They represented to me that the quarry would furnish the greater part of the column shafts in single blocks, and that certainly all the eastern porticoes would be single blocks.

Not wishing to tie them up to a certain number, in which, if by accident, they failed, they would lose their ten per cent. reservation, I wrote the contract as many in single blocks as the quarry would afford.

From that day they ought to have set aside such blocks as would answer, and it was understood that they would do so. They talked of a vessel they were about to build, or were about to buy, to carry the large shafts; but they have not quarried one column shaft yet, and thus have failed to deliver a number which the quarry could furnish.

They, for the last year, have informed me that they did not believe the quarry would enable them to furnish any monoliths, and, upon an inspection of it, I concluded that without great delay we could not get them according to the second contract. But they professed and wished to furnish two-thirds shafts. I did not regard these as making as good a job as either monoliths or four feet frusta, and the two-thirds shafts were only admitted into the contract originally in order to give them a place for such stones as they should be unfortunate in getting out.

I much prefer the frusta for the beauty of the building, and I sent, some two months since, a bill calling upon them to send the columns, some of which are much wanted, according to the terms of the original contract.

To this they make no answer for two months; do not send a block of stone for column shafts, and then write to me that they consider that the first contract is annulled by the second, and for that they demand nearly a double price.

I will not express my opinion of this conduct further than to say that it shows that I did wrong, in writing out a contract with them,

to trust anything to their verbal promises and undertakings, and that I ought to have specified as strictly the number of columns to be allowed in two-third blocks as though I was dealing with men who needed to be tied up in every item by a written instrument.

I presumed that their object is, to be permitted to send as many shafts in two-third lengths as they can conveniently quarry at the price—\$1,100 for each shaft.

Believing, on inspection of the quarry and in Mr. Heebner's representation, that the second contract could not be complied with, I was willing to return to the old one; and that this can be properly done, with consent of both parties, I have no doubt.

I have not yet examined it to see whether the United States has the right to compel a return to it against their consent, of which consent I have no doubt.

I do not wish any controversy; but the United States has the right to withdraw the order for frusta; to order the columns partly in monoliths, partly in two thirds blocks, to judge of the number of these which they could have furnished, and thus of their fulfillment of their contract, and to purchase from other parties if they fail; annulling the contract and holding them and their sureties, of whom you are one, responsible for all loss or damages or delays caused by their failure.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain of Engineers.*

JOHN BAIRD,  
*Philadelphia, Pa.*

SEPTEMBER 2, 1857.

DEAR SIR: There is a dispute with the contractors for marble for the Capitol extension, which may make it proper to use Italian marble for the columns of the exterior porticoes.

There are 100 columns 24 feet 10 inches long, 2 feet 11 $\frac{7}{8}$  inches upper diameter, 3 feet 3 inches lower diameter; to be in single blocks, weighing about twenty tons each.

Could you deliver these in Washington upon a wharf to be provided by the United States?

If so, how soon could it be done, how soon could the first cargo be delivered, and what would each shaft cost?

The cubic contents of each is about 262 $\frac{1}{2}$  feet.

An early answer is desirable.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain of Engineers in charge.*

OTTO FABBRICOTTI,  
*43 New street, New York.*

NEW YORK, *September 5, 1857.*

DEAR SIR: Your esteemed favor of the 2d instant was duly received yesterday, and I made it the subject of my particular attention. The affair you propose to me being of a rather high importance, I think it is more convenient to have it discussed personally than by corresponding. Therefore I will leave for Washington Monday next, 7th instant, and call upon you the following day.

Meanwhile I remain, sir, yours, respectfully,

OTTO FABBRICOTTI.

M. C. MEIGS, Esq., *Washington.*

NEW YORK, *October 19, 1857.*

DEAR SIR: According to our intelligence, I wrote to my house in Italy concerning the hundred Carrara marble columns, and was answered by last steamer that they undertake to furnish them in Washington, D. C., at the wharf to be appointed by the government, within the epoch of two years, at the price of fifteen hundred dollars for every column in one whole shaft. In case it should be judged to have the columns in two or more pieces, then the price would be a great deal reduced.

I hasten to communicate to you the news, in order you may reflect on the subject, and decide accordingly. If you think my presence is required to understand each other better, notify me at once, and I will start immediately. This would be the proper and convenient time for me to charter the vessels, the freight being rather low.

In the expectancy of hearing from you soon, I remain yours, respectfully,

OTTO FABBRICOTTI.

M. C. MEIGS, Esq., *Washington.*

OCTOBER 21, 1857.

SIR: Your letter of 19th instant offering one hundred column shafts of Italian marble from the Carrara quarries, delivered in Washington at \$1,500 each, within two years, is received.

It engages my attention, and I will give you a definite answer as soon as possible. In the mean time, accept my thanks for the promptness with which you have attended to this matter.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain of Engineers.*

OTTO FABBRICOTTI, Esq.,  
*New York.*

SEPTEMBER 11, 1857.

GENTLEMEN: As our interview yesterday leaves me under the impression that you have agreed in your determination to hold the first

contract, so far as it relates to the columns, null, and as upon reading the contract I do not think that against your will I could enforce it, though with consent of both parties it might be still held as in force, it becomes necessary for me to advise you of the course I shall be compelled to pursue.

There can be no doubt that the supplemental contract is in full force; and though, from a belief that as you have not thus far complied with its provisions in regard to the columns it would now be impracticable for you to do so, I have been disposed to receive the blocks upon the terms of the first contract. I shall now be compelled to acknowledge that you have the right to decline recognizing this contract, and thus be compelled to withdraw the order for four-foot blocks, and to call upon you to supply the column shafts in single blocks except such as the quarry has not been capable of furnishing, and to deliver the remainder in two blocks, each one of which to form two thirds of the shaft. In short, to complete the delivery upon the terms of the supplemental contract.

I request an early answer to this letter, as there has already been too much delay; and the columns so long ordered are wanted immediately that they may be cut and ready to set up by the time the arcades of corridors are up.

I did suppose you would object to a delivery upon the terms of the first contract, believing that as the quarry was turning out, it was much to your advantage.

For the United States, I should much prefer carrying out the supplemental contract. I was very desirous of procuring the monolithic shafts, and am so yet. I shall return, therefore, to the second contract with pleasure, trusting that you will be able to deliver the shafts as promised when it was made.

Perhaps if your quarry fails, another may be opened in the neighborhood. Perhaps. Italian marble may be substituted. Mr. Heebner has lately delivered a number of about half the weight for the Post Office.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain of Engineers.*

Messrs. RICE, BAIRD & HEEBNER,  
*Philadelphia, Pa.*

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PHILADELPHIA, *September 17, 1857.*

DEAR SIR: Your favor of the 11th instant is received and forwarded to Mr. Heebner, who will no doubt give it his immediate attention.

When he left me on his way home from Washington, he had concluded to send the blocks for the columns of the connecting corridors in accordance with your order of July 2; leaving the question of price open, so as not to delay the progress of the work.

Yours, respectfully,

JOHN RICE,  
For RICE, BAIRD & HEEBNER.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,  
*In charge Capitol Extension, &c.*

LEE, *September 21, 1857.*

DEAR SIR :

\* \* \* \* \*

By mail to-day I received copy of your letter in relation to columns from Mr. Rice. As I intend to be in Washington on Friday, we then can talk the matter over. I am quarrying the columns for connection in four pieces so as not to stop the work.

Yours, very truly,

CHAS. HEEBNER.

M. C. MEIGS, *Captain Engineers,*  
*In charge U. S. C. and P. Office Extension, Washington.*

OCTOBER 21, 1857.

DEAR SIR: Referring to former letters in regard to the column shafts for the Capitol extension, and the objections you made to furnishing them under the old contract, further reflection upon your arguments and upon the contracts have brought me to the conclusion that it is your duty and mine to carry out the second or supplementary contract, and that it annulled the old one, so far as the column shafts are concerned.

I, therefore, formally withdraw all orders for column shafts in small blocks, and call upon you to furnish the whole number in single shafts, except the small proportion which may properly be in two blocks each, one of which to be two thirds of the length of the shaft; and further, the shafts which, during the pendency of this negotiation, may have been quarried or shipped by Mr. Heebner, from Lee, for the rear porticoes of the connecting corridors.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain of Engineers.*

MESSRS. RICE, BAIRD & HEEBNER,  
*Care of Mr. John Rice,*  
*No. 90 South Fourth Street, Philadelphia.*

PHILADELPHIA, *October 23, 1857.*

DEAR SIR: Your favor of 21st instant in regard to the column shafts for the Capitol extension is received. I will forward a copy of it to Mr. Heebner without delay.

\* \* \* \* \*

Yours, respectfully,

RICE, BAIRD & HEEBNER.  
Per JOHN RICE.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,  
*In charge of Capitol Extension, &c.*

PHILADELPHIA, November 3, 1857.

DEAR SIR: I expect a letter from Mr. Heebner to-morrow in relation to the columns, upon the receipt of which I will give you a definite proposal, which I hope will prove satisfactory. \* \* \*

Very truly yours,

JOHN RICE.

For RICE, BAIRD & HEEBNER.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,

*In charge of Capitol Extension, &c.*

PHILADELPHIA, November 4, 1857.

DEAR SIR: In accordance with the promise made at our last interview in Washington city, we hereby propose to furnish, for the extension of the United States Capitol, one hundred columns in single shafts, delivered on the wharf at Washington, at seventeen hundred dollars (\$1,700) each.

We also propose, and would prefer to furnish them from our quarry at Lee, Massachusetts, as follows: For each shaft in 6 pieces, at nine hundred dollars (\$900) each; in 5 pieces, at nine hundred and fifty (\$950) each; in 4 pieces, at one thousand dollars (\$1,000) each.

Very truly yours,

RICE, BAIRD & HEEBNER.

Per JOHN RICE.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,

*In charge of Capitol Extension, &c.*

WASHINGTON, November 9, 1857.

SIRS: Your letter of 4th instant, making a proposition to furnish for the extension of the Capitol 100 columns in single blocks, delivered upon the wharf at Washington, at seventeen hundred dollars each, or to furnish the same columns from your quarry at Lee, Massachusetts, for each shaft in six pieces at nine hundred dollars each, in five pieces at nine hundred and fifty dollars each, in four pieces at one thousand dollars each, is received.

By referring to your contract of the 13th of March, 1854, you will see that you have contracted to deliver as many "monolithic shafts" as your quarry may prove capable of furnishing, at fourteen hundred dollars each, and the remainder of the whole number required for the exterior porticoes in two blocks each, one of which to form two thirds of the whole length of each shaft, at eleven hundred dollars for each shaft, thus delivered on the grounds of the extension of the United States Capitol.

It appears to me that it is hardly necessary to say that I have no authority to accept such a proposition as that contained in your letter above referred to.

You contracted to deliver monolithic shafts on the Capitol grounds for \$1,400 each, and now propose to deliver them on the wharf at \$1,700.

You contracted to deliver shafts in two pieces on the Capitol grounds

at \$1,100, and now propose to be paid \$1,000 for shafts in four pieces each, delivered on the wharf.

You have already received the bill of the columns to be delivered according to your contract, and upon the fulfillment of that contract it is my duty to insist.

If not apprised within a reasonable time, of arrangements on your part which will probably fulfill the contract, I shall expect to make such arrangements as will enable the government to procure the column shafts according to the contract from other parties.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers in charge.*

Messrs. RICE, BAIRD & HEEBNER,

*Philadelphia, Pa.*

DEAR SIR: Your favor of the 9th instant came to hand on the 13th.

I will come down to Washington on Wednesday, and will see if it is possible to make some arrangements in regard to the columns of the Capitol extension.

Very truly yours,

JOHN RICE,

For RICE, BAIRD & HEEBNER.

Capt. M. C. MEIGS,

*In charge of Capitol Extension.*

OCTOBER 21, 1857.

DEAR SIR: I have ascertained that I can get the column shafts for for Capitol extension, one hundred in number, delivered within two years from the quarries of Carrara, in Italy, in single blocks, at \$1,500 each, delivered in Washington, at the wharf to be designated.

Now, if I can get them, they can be furnished in this way and charged against your contract. I think that this will relieve you from the disability under which I am sure you labor of fulfilling this part of your second contract, at a loss which is only the cost of hauling from the wharf to the Capitol the shafts.

This is so insignificant a loss that, in comparison with the loss to be suffered of the ten per cent., in case you fail to fulfill the contract for monolithic shafts, I think you cannot do better than either to consent to the United States making the endeavor to procure the shafts in this way, or take the matter into your own hands and furnish them from the same place, which I should prefer.

I have notified Mr. Rice (Rice, Baird, and Heebner, Philadelphia) that I am convinced that he can support himself in his position that the old contract is annulled by the new one, so far as the shafts are concerned.

I have withdrawn the orders given under a wrong construction, and to which I objected, for column blocks in short lengths, and I have sent the firm the order for the shafts in single blocks, according to the supplemental contract.

I address myself to you because I believe you understand the matter better than Mr. Rice, and because he has informed me that the negotiation was transferred to you and that you would write to me on the subject, which I think you have failed to do.

Consider this matter and let me know your opinion at once. I believe it is for your advantage, and for that of the United States, to look to Italy for the shafts. This is to be a favorable time for freights and advantage should be taken of it.

Fabbricotti offers distinctly to deliver the one hundred shafts in two years, at \$1,500 each. I wish to answer him.

I believe that you know that I do not wish to do anything which can be prejudicial to the interests either of the United States or yourselves, and that when I advise the adoption of this course it is because I believe it to be the best for both parties to the contract.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain of Engineers.*

CHARLES HEEBNER,  
*Lee, Massachusetts.*

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LEE, *October 26, 1857.*

DEAR SIR: Your favors of 21st and 22d came duly to hand. With reference to the columns, I will be in Washington on Friday, will see Mr. Rice on my way down, and will be prepared to arrange the whole matter. We will be able to get at things better by talking it over than by writing.

Yours, very truly,

CHAS. HEEBNER.

M. C. MEIGS, *Capt. Engineers,*  
*In charge U. S. Capitol and P. O. Extens., Washington.*

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NEW YORK, *January 16, 1858.*

SIR: I propose to furnish and deliver to you, for the government of the United States for the Capitol extension, one hundred columns of the dimension and quality of marble mentioned in your letter, at fifteen hundred dollars each, without duty, delivered from time to time, but all to be shipped at Leghorn within thirty months from the signing of the contract. The voyage from Leghorn takes usually sixty days. In two pieces, I will furnish the columns at \$1,300 each, and deliver them all within two years at Washington.

If the government will furnish ships to transport the columns, the price can be largely reduced. I will deliver them at Leghorn or Spezzia for eleven hundred dollars each. In two pieces at one thousand dollars a column at Leghorn or Spezzia. It is probable that the columns can be delivered in less time, and I shall do all in my power to hasten the delivery. If circumstances are favorable, I believe much time may be saved; but in fixing the period of thirty months for single blocks, and twenty-four months for double blocks, I have named the longest time;



for I do not wish to make an engagement with you that unfavorable circumstances might prevent me from performing.

Very respectfully,

OTTO FABBRICOTTI.

Captain MONTGOMERY C. MEIGS,

*U. S. Engineers, Superintendent of Capitol Extension.*

APRIL 6, 1858.

DEAR SIR: It is known to you that the firm of Rice, Baird & Heebner, have, through a correspondence carried on on their part by Mr. Rice, refused to supply the columns for the Capitol extension portico of the sizes ordered under the contract of 30th March, 1855.

I have to ask you whether, as a member of the firm or as an importer of and dealer in marble, you have any mode to suggest of supplying these columns in blocks, as specified in the contract.

I am offered by parties in New York monolithic columns of Italian marble, and it is necessary that the whole matter be shortly laid before the Secretary of War for his decision.

Awaiting an early answer, I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers.*

CHARLES HEEBNER,

*Lee, Massachusetts.*

PHILADELPHIA, April 13, 1858.

DEAR SIR: Your letter of 6th instant is received, asking if I have any mode to suggest for supplying the columns for exterior of Capitol extension in blocks, as specified in the contract of Rice, Baird & Heebner, of the 30th March, 1854.

If you decide to use Italian marble, I will deliver them of that material in one piece on the dock at Washington for \$1,490, say, fourteen hundred and ninety dollars for each column. Time of delivery, from twenty to twenty-four months from date of order.

Yours, truly,

CHARLES HEEBNER.

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain Engineers in charge U. S. Capitol and  
Post Office Extensions.*

No. 276 SOUTH THIRD STREET.

Philadelphia, April 16, 1858.

DEAR SIR: Will you please allow us to withdraw our proposal of November 4, 1857, for the columns of the Capitol extension, and oblige, yours respectfully,

RICE, BAIRD & HEEBNER,  
Per JOHN RICE,  
CHAS. HEEBNER.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,

*In charge of Capitol Extension.*

APRIL 17, 1858.

DEAR SIR: I have this day received your letter withdrawing the proposal for columns for the Capitol extension, made November, 1857.

I have, also, to-day reported to the Secretary of War upon the subject of your failure to deliver the column shafts, as provided by your contract.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers in charge U. S. Capitol Extension.*

RICE, BAIRD &amp; HEEBNER,

*Philadelphia, Pa.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U. S.,

*Washington, April 14, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: Mr. John Rice, of Philadelphia, is desirous of offering to supply the marble caps of the Capitol extension building, and I respectfully suggest that your decision may be delayed for a few days in order to give him the opportunity.

Very respectfully, yours,

HENRY M. PHILLIPS.

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,

*Secretary of War.*

The above letter was referred to Captain Meigs for report.

APRIL 17, 1858.

SIR: I return the letter of Hon. H. M. Phillips, informing you that Mr. John Rice is desirous of making an offer to supply the marble caps of the Capitol extension, and desiring you to suspend your decision for a few days.

Mr. John Rice is one of the firm of Rice, Baird & Heebner, who have a contract for supplying all the marble for the exterior of the Capitol extension. They have already supplied all, or nearly all of the marble for the capitals of the columns, and are bound by their contract of March 30, 1854, (on file in the proper department, and printed in Executive document No. 139, 34th Congress, first session, at page 115,) "to deliver for the 100 (one hundred) columns of the exterior porticoes as many monolithic shaft as their quarry may prove capable of furnishing, and the remainder of the whole number required in two blocks each, one of which to form two thirds of the whole length of each shaft."

The price to be paid is "at the rate of fourteen hundred dollars for each monolithic column shaft for the exterior porticoes, and eleven hundred dollars for each shaft delivered in two pieces, as above specified."

It was understood, when this contract was negotiated, that the quarry would furnish nearly the whole of the one hundred shafts in single blocks, and it was agreed to receive a few in two pieces of two

thirds and one third the length of the shaft, in order to provide for those which, after considerable expense, might meet with some accident reducing their length, and the entire rejection of which would cause great loss to the contractors. It was intended to place these less beautiful shafts in the retired porticos and less conspicuous situations.

Though repeatedly urged, Messrs. Rice, Baird & Heebner have failed to deliver a single column shaft in accordance with their contract.

I have had long correspondence and much discussion with them, which it would be tedious, and useless perhaps, to go over again.

Finding that there was no prospect of their being able to furnish shafts from their quarry, or from any other in the United States, in a reasonable time or of suitable material, I addressed myself to other dealers to supply the shafts according to the contract. The only offers which I have received, are as follows:

One from Mr. Fabbriotti, of New York, an extensive dealer in Italian marble, offering to furnish the shafts in accordance with the terms of the contract, but delivered upon the dock, at fifteen hundred dollars each shaft; and one from Mr. Charles Heebner, on the same conditions, at fourteen hundred and ninety dollars each.

The cost of hauling them from the dock would not exceed twenty dollars each, making the cost of the shafts by Mr. Fabbriotti's offer, delivered at the Capitol extension, fifteen hundred and twenty dollars each; by Mr. Heebner's offer, fifteen hundred and ten dollars each. The one hundred shafts, delivered in two years, would thus

cost .....	\$151,000
By the contract of Rice, Baird & Heebner, if all delivered in single blocks, they would cost.....	140,000
Difference.....	<u>11,000</u>

There is a sum of \$15,000 reserved from the payments made under the contract, as security for its faithful completion, and which is forfeited upon any failure to fulfill the contract. This would cover the loss to the United States caused by their failure.

Under all the circumstances, believing that either Mr. Fabbriotti or Mr. Heebner would fulfill the engagement he offers, I am of opinion that it will be proper to order the shafts of Italian marble; and as Mr. Heebner is one of the parties in the firm of Rice, Baird & Heebner, and liable to the loss of his share of the \$15,000 reserved ten per cent. on the contract by this failure of their quarry, I think it would be proper to give him the order.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers, in charge of Capitol Extension.*

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,  
*Secretary of War.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 1, 1858.

SIR: I herewith send you a proposal for the columns of the Capitol extension, and I desire to accompany the same with the following brief

explanation of the state of the contract for marble I have heretofore had with government, and in which I was the principal:

In the original contract, I was connected with Mr. John Baird, whose interest was subsequently bought out; Mr. Charles Heebner and Mr. Matthew Baird were securities, but at the suggestion of the Attorney General their names were entered in the contract as principals. This will be seen by the original offer which was accepted, and which is now on the files in the Capitol Extension Office.

After the contract was made I entered into a private agreement with Mr. Heebner as a partner. This explains my relation to the works of the Capitol. The first contract provides for the columns in six blocks for each shaft, the said contract being printed in Executive Document No. 52, 1st session 32d Congres.

This contract was annulled by a supplementary one made with Capt. Meigs, March 30, 1854, which provides for delivering 100 columns for the exterior porticoes in "*as many monolithic shafts as the quarry may prove capable of furnishing, and the remainder of the whole number required in two blocks each, one of which to form two-thirds of the whole length of each shaft;*" those in monolithic shafts to be \$1,400 per piece, and those in two blocks at \$1,100.

It having been developed by the subsequent working of the quarries that it would not be possible to obtain any monolithic shafts, and that it is very doubtful that the columns could even be furnished in two pieces without delaying the work for many years, Capt. Meigs having been satisfied of this fact by several visits to the quarry, he proceeded to nulify that portion of the contract which related to the columns. There is, therefore, according to his decision, no contract now existing for any of the said exterior columns. We are still, however, held responsible by him for all that those columns may cost over the \$1,400 per piece; and he has signified his intention to charge up to our account all that he may have to give over and above that sum. This has induced me to offer to furnish the Italian marble at the same price, viz., \$1,400 per piece in single blocks, although that sum is much lower than they could be got for under other circumstances.

In offering to furnish them of American marble, I have named four blocks for each shaft, as I know by experience that the work would be greatly delayed if they are required in larger pieces. They are perfectly manageable in four pieces, but in the present state of marble quarries in America it would not be safe to attempt to obtain these shafts in a less number of blocks.

I believe it is conceded by architects that columns with a few joints in them, if properly made, afford a variety in the shafts that enhance the beauty, and in view of the very superior workmanship in the Capitol, it can scarcely be doubted that the columns would look far better in four pieces than in one; I am, however, ready to furnish them in single shafts of Italian marble, at \$1,400, if it is desired.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN RICE.

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,  
*Secretary of War.*

*Copy of proposal.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 1, 1858.

SIR: I hereby offer to furnish the 100 column shafts required for the extension of the United States Capitol, each shaft to be in a single block of Italian marble, delivered on the wharf at Washington, at \$1,400 per piece, or, should it be decided to make these columns in four blocks for each shaft of American marble, I will deliver the same as above, at \$1,050 for each column.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN RICE.

Hon. J. B. FLOYD,

*Secretary of War.*

The above letter and proposal were referred to Capt. Meigs for report.

MAY 10, 1858.

SIR: I return the letter and offer of Mr. John Rice, proposing to deliver one hundred columns of Italian marble, in monolithic shafts, for the Capitol extension, and explaining his connection with the contracts of the Capitol extension.

These letters were referred to me for a report.

Mr. Rice is mistaken in saying that I have nullified that portion of the contract of Rice, Baird & Heebner, of 30th March, 1854, which relates to the column shafts.

Of my last letters to Mr. Rice, in reference to the column shafts, I inclose copies, by which it will be seen that I have called upon him to furnish the shafts under and according to his contract.

He has failed to do so, and I have informed him that the delivery of the shafts at the Capitol, of Italian marble, would be considered by me as a fulfillment of the contract.

This he declined very positively, objecting to foreign marble being used in the columns.

This contract now stands in full force.

Mr. Rice's present offer appears to be an individual offer from Mr. Rice, not from the firm of which he is a member.

If Messrs. Rice & Heebner will deliver the columns under their contract, at the Capitol, there will be no difficulty; they now differ only fifty dollars a shaft from each other, and differ from their contract in offering to deliver upon the wharf, instead of at the Capitol grounds.

Mr. Heebner has a business connection with the Italian marble quarries, which gives me confidence that if he undertakes to deliver these shafts, he will fulfill his engagement. He has delivered those for the Post Office.

Mr. Fabbricotti, from what I hear, I think will also be able to do it.

Mr. Rice, so far as I know, has no such connection, and no particular facilities for importing these columns.

I advise that Mr. Rice be requested to consult with Mr. Heebner,

and deliver the shafts of Italian marble under the provisions of the contract.

If the department is disposed to accept his offer to deliver them on the wharf, at \$1,400 each, I advise that proof be required of him of ability to perform what he offers, as any failure will increase the delay already resulting from his default as a contractor.

I have derived from my negotiations with the parties the impression that had not Mr. Rice so resolutely objected, that the contract would have been filled by them by the delivery of the shafts in Italian marble.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers, in charge of Capitol Extension.*

Hon. J. B. FLOYD,

*Secretary of War.*

NOTE.—The letters to Mr. Rice, referred to in the fourth paragraph of this communication, are those to Messrs. Rice, Baird & Heebner, dated respectively September 11, 1857, October 21, 1857, and November 9, 1857.

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MAY 31, 1858.

SIR: I return the letter of Charles Heebner, one of the contractors for marble for the extension of the Capitol, under date of the 22d instant, addressed to the department, and explaining the action of himself and partners in regard to the column shafts.

The proposition made by Mr. Heebner in this letter appears to me to be satisfactory.

If his partner refuses to agree to it, I do not see that Mr. Heebner, who is, on his part, willing to fulfill the contract, should suffer.

I therefore respectfully advise that I be authorized to inform Messrs. Rice & Heebner that the delivery of the one hundred monolithic shafts of Italian marble upon the grounds of extension of the United States Capitol, will be considered as a fulfillment of the contract; and that the first one hundred shafts delivered by them, as partners to the contract, or by either of them individually, will be accredited to the contractors, or to that one of the contractors who may deliver them, at the rate of fourteen hundred dollars each shaft.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers, in charge Capitol Extension.*

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,

*Secretary of War.*

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WASHINGTON, May 22, 1858.

DEAR SIR: Rice, Baird & Heebner, under contract with government of March 30, 1854, for the delivery of marble for United States Cap-

itol extension, agreed to deliver columns for the porticoes in shafts of one piece. Finding the quarries would not produce blocks of sufficient size, they asked Captain Meigs, superintendent in charge, to change their contract, and allow the columns to be made of four or five pieces. This he declined, saying he had no power to make such changes. I then suggested to Mr. Rice, partner with me in the contract, that we would deliver the columns of Italian marble. This he positively declined, saying he never would consent to the use of that material for columns, saying, also, he would negotiate to have columns made in pieces. Captain Meigs wrote to me April 6, 1858, asking if I had any mode to suggest to deliver the columns as specified in the contract. I at once consulted with Mr. Rice, and urged the delivery of the columns of Italian marble, and he again refused to listen to the use of foreign material, saying again he would have the alteration made to deliver in small blocks. In order, then, to save any further delay of the work, and to protect myself from litigation, I wrote Captain Meigs I would deliver the columns of Italian marble, at a price stated in my letter of 13th April, 1855.

I now understand Mr. Rice proposes to deliver the columns from Italy. Presuming from this his objection heretofore made against Italian marble is removed, I will agree, as a member of the firm, or on my individual account, to deliver the columns of Italian marble, in all respects as specified in the contract of March 30, 1854.

Yours, very respectfully,

CHARLES HEEBNER,  
*Lee, Massachusetts.*

Hon. J. B. FLOYD, *Secretary of War,*  
*Washington.*

PHILADELPHIA, *August 20, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: I found from the conversation I had with you on Wednesday last that you were under the impression that my offer for the columns of the Capitol extension at \$1,050 for each column, if made in four pieces, is too high, and that you base your impression in the fact that we have a contract for the same columns, made in two pieces each, at \$1,100.

I am quite certain that a little explanation will satisfy you that the offer is a reasonable one, even in view of the slight difference there is between the columns in two pieces and in four. There are other considerations which have doubtless not occurred to you. To a few of these I now desire to ask your attention.

First. It must be borne in mind that four years and four months have elapsed since the contract for the columns in two pieces was made, and that we have delivered since that time a vast quantity of stone to the Capitol, the most, if not all of which, would have been produced by the process of quarrying the said column blocks, had it been found that our quarry would have produced them; but this opportunity is now past, as we have lost the use of just as much small stone in getting out the columns as we have delivered since the prices were fixed

in the former contract; and it should be remarked that every cargo of small stuff we have delivered makes the accumulation of refuse material in getting out the columns to be left on our hands so much greater.

Besides, we are getting every day deeper in our quarry, which makes the material far more difficult to get out; and further, it must be considered that columns in four blocks have the allowance for working three joints to provide for, while columns in two blocks have but one joint. This makes the columns in four pieces to contain, in the rough, about eight cubic feet more than the column in two pieces. We have to give a surplus of at least two inches for working each joint.

Secondly. The price awarded to us for the columns in two pieces was entirely too low, as we were pressed down in the contract to the lowest possible figure; so low that we never could have furnished them for the money.

Thirdly. The price at which I have offered to furnish the columns in four blocks each is far below what any similar columns have heretofore been furnished for, while, at the same time, the material is far superior to any ever used for exterior architecture.

The columns of the Patent Office, which are a cheap, coarse crystal limestone, bearing but 8,057 pounds on the square inch, (while our marble bears 22,702 pounds,) were brought from Baltimore county, at a cost of three dollars and sixty cents per foot, as the public records show, and these columns are in many pieces each. The columns of the Girard College, which are in eight to ten pieces each column, came from the neighborhood of our quarries, and are of far inferior materials, both in appearance and strength, and they cost at the rate of four dollars per cubic foot.

The columns of the Post Office extension in Washington, which came from Italy, cost above ten dollars per cubic foot in the rough, while the price at which I offer to furnish those at the Capitol, in four pieces each, averages but about three dollars and twenty cents per foot. It is, therefore, very evident that my offer is far below what any similar stone has heretofore been furnished for; and that the price, in view of our former offer, and the natural changes which have taken place in our quarry by its increased depth, and also the vast quantity of useless material that must necessarily be produced in obtaining these columns at the present state of the work; I say that, in view of these things, the price is extremely low, and will add that it is quite as low as these columns can possibly be furnished for, if the contract is now made; and, if it is not now made, it must be evident to you the longer it is put off the more costly it will be, for the reasons before stated.

I trust that this explanation will remove from your mind the idea that the price at which I offer to furnish these columns is too high, and that, in view of these circumstances, it is quite in conformity with the prices of former contracts.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN RICE.

Hon. J. B. FLOYD,  
*Secretary of War.*

The above letter was referred to Captain Meigs for report.



WASHINGTON, *September 18, 1858.*

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of Mr. John Rice, of the 20th ultimo, referred to me from the department.

In this letter, Mr. Rice explains that, in his opinion, his offer to deliver the column shafts of the Capitol extension at \$1,100 each, in six pieces, is a reasonable one.

As you have determined not to accept this offer, which I think is plainly forbidden by the law of 1852, as not being a fulfillment of the contract of Messrs. Rice & Heebner, I have merely to acknowledge the reference.

I hope that the advertisement which you have ordered will bring offers for the columns, if obliged to accept them in pieces, at a cheaper rate.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers, in charge.*

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD.

*Secretary of War.*

WAR DEPARTMENT,

*Washington, August 27, 1858.*

SIR: You will visit the marble quarries which may, in your opinion, be likely to supply materials for the columns of the extension of the Capitol, returning to this city and reporting the result with as little delay as possible.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. R. DRINKARD,

*Acting Secretary of War.*

Captain M. C. MEIGS,

*United States Engineers, Washington.*

BALTIMORE, *September 9, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: My agent at Danby writes me that two gentlemen visited my quarry on Friday last, and examined it very particularly. On my way to the quarry, some days before, I visited Mr. Heebner's quarry, expecting he would go with me to Danby; he declined, but said he would visit it with you. I take it for granted that you were one of the persons referred to. I regret I was not with you to explain my views on the spot. I have had much experience in quarries—more, I think, than Mr. Heebner. I feel some confidence in my opinion on the subject. As far as composition goes, my marble cannot be beaten; in structure it is better suited for a building material than the Rutland or the Dorset. When I speak of structure I leave out of view the shakes (to which I will presently refer) that appear in several of the strata or sheets. To use a familiar term with quarry men, the Rutland marble is without sap, and takes the weather; the crystals are too fine to give it richness.

The white strata in these quarries are so limited, compared with the green, that the supply of the former does not equal the demand, at a very high price, for ornamental work. To get your columns from these quarries is out of the question. The green stripe pervades all the strata except, I believe, two, and the stripe is too frequent and defined, unfitting the strata for monument or building work.

The Dorset marble (McDonald's) is generally white, with an occasional blue lamina. Its particles must be flaxseed shaped, because you can separate a block very nicely with the bed way, but to cut it across the bed requires the holes to be put near together; and to insure a good cut, they must, like the Pennsylvania marbles, be bored through the block. In consequence, it is difficult for the stonecutter to work the edge without spawling down. This stone is somewhat larger in the crystal than the Danby.

The Danby marble separates more easily across the bed than with the bed. I mean a block taken from any one of the white strata. You cannot separate such a block the bed way (if it be a sound one) with any certainty. The side and edge of the white strata work and look alike. The striped strata is liked very much in Baltimore for steps. In sawing, a white space is selected, and the blue stripe on the edge, being more diffused than the green of the Rutland, is not objectionable.

Parts of the strata in my quarry at present have a fault: they are shaky. This is accidental, and, as you may have noticed, the north end of the strata are much less shaky than the south; so also do they improve as you go westward into the mountain. I notice particularly, that on the north side of a dry or crack that appears in some of the strata, the stone is much less shaky than on the south side of the dry; and if I could find a dry or crack running north and south parallel with the front channel, I feel assured that west of that dry the stone would not be shaky.

You may have observed that at the south end of my quarry there is a depression in the mountain side, which made there a water-course. There is also at this point, running east and west, a decided vertical fissure or break through all the strata, made by an earthquake, by which the water from the quarry makes its escape. You may have observed that the south and east of my quarry lay exposed to the sun, perhaps for ages. Water and roots of trees have penetrated the fissures. During extreme changes of temperature the different strata have felt the influence. The rock, being tenacious, would not easily break, hence the shakes.

It has been ascertained by geologists that the extremes of temperature in the latitude of Vermont reaches a distance of thirty feet from the surface of the earth; possibly where an earthquake rent is well developed it may reach further.

I hope you may have noticed in the southwest or back part of Mr. Kelly's quarry, immediately above mine, that he is quarrying out the remaining portions of strata Nos. 5 and 6, and at that point the distance must be about thirty feet from the original surface of the mountain. The stone he is getting out (except earthquake rents and cracks) is perfectly solid, very hard, and clear of shakes. In my quarry, stra-

tum No. 3, (white,) at the south end, and also east at the channel, was very shaky. It improved as I progressed, and the part now left, in the northwest corner, is solid enough for any purpose.

Mr. Kelly's quarry is bounded north and south by vertical basaltic rock veins, about two and a half to three feet thick, and running east and west. I believe when those basaltic rocks were thrown up the whole mass of the strata in my quarry was raised up on the north, and caused the present rent at the south end of the quarry.

When I selected my quarry I had the choice of two parts of the undivided whole. I chose the north and south lots, and Mr. Kelly's is the space between. I preferred opening where I did because I saw a blast put into one of the strata, and traced the rent for fifty or sixty feet, running in an oblique direction, showing to me that the rock at that place was clear of cracks or dries, and that I would be able to quarry with precision and certainty, and would get large sized stone. The accidental shakes, I believed, would soon disappear as I progressed. In short, I believe that stratum No. 7, north of the dry which appears forty or fifty feet from the north end, will yield solid stuff thick enough for your columns; and all the strata north and west of the present block of No. 3, which is quarried out, will be solid, and that Mr. Heebner will, with his present force of eighty hands, be able to uncover, by this time next year, a sufficient quantity of solid white marble for all your columns; that he will be able to sell nearly all the stone he removes in preparing for the columns; that strata Nos. 8 and 9, not yet developed, except from observation at the outcrop, will be available on the present ground for columns.

I only received Mr. Panten's letter this day, and hasten to write. Had I allowed myself more time, I would have arranged my argument better.

Very respectfully,

THOMAS SYMINGTON.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,

*Engineer in charge U. S. Capitol Extension.*

LEE, September 11, 1856.

DEAR SIR: I understand that government intends to make the columns for the United States Capitol extension in pieces; was so informed by honorable J. B. Floyd, Secretary of War, last Wednesday, when in Washington.

On the 30th of March, 1854, the firm of Rice, Baird, & Heebner, entered into contract with you to deliver the columns for the Capitol extension, in one piece, from our quarry, at Lee. Some two years ago, I expressed my fears to you that the quarry would not produce columns in single pieces, and at same time commenced negotiations for them in three or four pieces. Mr. Rice wrote to me about the same time, and wished me to stop negotiating. I at once handed the whole matter over to him; since then he has done the negotiating, and I understand for his own account.

My object in this letter, is to have the assurance of government that my interest shall not be affected in regard to the back money in the hands of the government, and that the securities to the contract shall not be troubled, if the above contract is not carried out.

I offered to government to deliver the columns of Italian marble, in accordance with the above contract in every respect, for the firm, or on my own account. Now, it cannot be said I offered an inferior material. You can visit any marble shop in the country, and you will find nine-tenths of the mantel-pieces and monumental work made of the same material.

The delivery of the columns of Italian marble would be at a much greater cost to me, but I prefer losing money in faithfully fulfilling our contract with government, than to forfeit it by non-fulfillment of contract, and that after I offered everything that could be asked for.

I have given this contract my undivided attention, and at all times have done everything in my power to forward the work, which I hope you will do me the justice to say. Please let me hear from you.

Yours, very truly,

CHARLES HEEBNER.

M. C. MEIGS, *Captain Engineers,*

*In charge U. S. Capitol Extension, Washington, D. C.*

P. S. I mislaid the copy of my letter to the Secretary in relation to the columns, will you send me a copy? I want to bring the whole matter up by correspondence. Answer my letter, and have it written plain.

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SEPTEMBER 25, 1858.

SIR: Mr. Charles Heebner writes to me that he has mislaid his copy of his offer to furnish Italian marble columns for the porticoes of the Capitol extension. He asks me for a copy.

I inclose a copy to the department, to be forwarded to him if you think proper to grant his request.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Capt. of Engineers, in charge of U. S. Capitol Extension.*

Hon. J. B. FLOYD,

*Secretary of War.*

Send it.

J. B. F.

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September 25, 1858.

DEAR SIR: In compliance with your request of the 11th instant, I inclose a copy of your letter to the Secretary of War, offering Italian

marble columns to the Secretary, that he may forward it to you if he thinks proper.

The Secretary, from some opinion I have lately heard him express, might not approve of my sending it without his action in the premises.

Respectfully, your obedient servant.

M. C. MEIGS,

*Capt. Engineers, in charge of Capitol Extension.*

CHARLES HEEBNER, Esq.,

*Lee, Berkshire County, Massachusetts.*

September 30, 1858.

DEAR SIR: The Secretary of War having authorized it, I inclose a copy of your letter to him, dated May 22, 1858, offering to furnish Italian marble columns under your contract for marble for the Capitol extension.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers.*

CHARLES HEEBNER,

*Lee, Berkshire County, Massachusetts.*

WASHINGTON, September 18, 1858.

SIR: On the 27th ultimo I received orders from the department to visit the marble quarries which, in my opinion, might be likely to supply material for the columns of the extension of the Capitol, and returning to this city, to report the result with as little delay as possible.

I have visited and examined quarries in Montgomery county, Pennsylvania; in Massachusetts, and in Vermont; near Barren Hill, Pennsylvania; Lee and Stockbridge, Massachusetts; and Dorset, Danby, Rutland, and Burlington, Vermont.

The result of this examination is the opinion that the quickest and best mode of procuring the shafts for the porticoes is to accept the offer of Mr. Charles Heebner, of the firm of Rice, Baird & Heebner, to deliver them in single blocks, in accordance with the terms of their contract of 30th March, 1854, substituting marble from the quarries of Carrara for that which they contracted to deliver, and which they assert, and I believe, their quarry at Lee is not capable of furnishing.

In this opinion, communicated in an interview at the department, you did not concur, but directed me to prepare an advertisement for proposals for delivering the column shafts either in single blocks or in pieces not less than four feet in length, according to specifications of former contracts, to be of marble similar in chemical composition, grain, and color, to the Lee marble, which, after careful examination and test, was adopted for and has been used in the exterior facings of the Capitol extension.

I have the honor to submit a draft of an advertisement for this purpose.

The law requires it to be published for sixty days before making contracts; and, if approved, I respectfully request a list of the papers in which it should be published.

The marble district extends from Maryland to Vermont. Upon the selection of a good material for the columns will depend the beauty and duration of this building, costing millions of dollars; and no contract should be made without the fullest opportunity for search for the material, and for competition between those who may know of deposits of marble which they may believe to be capable of supplying blocks of sufficient size and suitable quality. The advertisement should therefore be extensively published throughout the marble district.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers in charge of Capitol Extension.*

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,

*Secretary of War.*

U. S. CAPITOL EXTENSION AND WASHINGTON AQUEDUCT OFFICE,  
*Washington September —, 1858.*

Sealed proposals will be received at this office until the — day of November next, at noon, for furnishing on the grounds of the extension of the Capitol, one hundred shafts for the columns of the exterior porticoes of that building.

The dimensions are as follows:

One hundred shafts, including the upper torus of the base: each shaft to be twenty-five feet, two and one eighth inches in height from the bottom of said torus to the top of the upper astragal.

The diameter of the torus or bottom piece of shaft to be three feet seven and five eighths inches; the diameter of the shaft above the base to be three feet, and at the neck below the capitol, two feet, six and one eighth inches; and the diameter of the upper astragal to be two feet eleven and seven eighths inches. These are the net dimensions of the work when finished.

All the blocks to be scabbed round to dimensions, and to be free from all defects which would make blemishes in the finished columns.

The above shafts to be of white American marble, similar in color, grain, and composition to that used in the exterior of the Capitol extension, which comes from near Lee, Massachusetts.

Every proposal should be accompanied with a block at least one cubic foot in size, as a specimen of the marble offered. This specimen will be submitted to the proper chemical and mechanical tests before being accepted for the work.

The proposals should state the time within which the marble will be delivered, and should be accompanied by a written guarantee, signed by one or more responsible persons, to the effect that he or they undertake that the bidder or bidders will, if his or their bids be accepted, enter into an obligation within ten days, with good and sufficient secu-

rities, for the completion of the work undertaken; said guarantee to be accompanied by the certificate of the United States district judge, United States district attorney, navy agent, or some officer of the general government, or individual known to the engineer or Department of War, that the guarantors are able to make good their guarantee.

The United States reserves the right to reject any or all bids not deemed advantageous, and to make other arrangements for procuring the marble.

Proposals will be received for furnishing the shafts either in single blocks, or in blocks of not less than four feet in length, and the number of shafts offered in single blocks, or in pieces respectively, should be stated.

Proposals will be opened in this office at noon, of the — November next, in the presence of bidders who may choose to be present.

By order of the Secretary of War.

M. C. MEIGS.

*Captain of Engineers in charge U. S. Capitol Extension.*

*Form of Guarantee.*

*To Captain M. C. Meigs, United States Engineers:*

We, the undersigned, residents of ———, in the State of ———, hereby, jointly and severally, covenant with the United States, and guaranty, in case the foregoing bid of ——— be accepted, that he or they will, within ten days after the acceptance of the said bid, execute the contract for the same, with good and sufficient sureties, to perform the work, or furnish the articles proposed, in conformity to the terms of the advertisement under which it was made. And, in case the said ——— shall fail to enter into contract as aforesaid, we guaranty to make good the difference between the offer by the said ——— and the next lowest bidder.

A. B.

C. D.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the above-named guarantees are good and sufficient.

E. F.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *September 27, 1858.*

Let the advertisement be sent out.

J. B. F.

The advertisement was accordingly published in various papers designated by the department; the 4th day of December, at noon, having been fixed as the time until which proposals would be received.

CAPITOL EXTENSION OFFICE,  
*Washington, December 18, 1858.*

SIR: I send herewith the bids for marble column shafts for the porticoes of the Capitol extension. As some of the bids were made at specified rates per cubic foot, instead of at fixed sums for each shaft delivered, it was impossible to make any estimate of cost, satisfactory to the bidders, without knowing the mode of measurement upon which they depended. I, therefore, addressed a circular letter to all the bidders, a copy of which is inclosed, with such answers as I have received.

The only dimensions specified in the advertisement are the net dimensions of the finished shaft, and these dimensions, giving a cubic content to the finished shaft of  $159\frac{1}{10}$  cubic feet, have been used in the estimates accompanying this letter.

Some of the bidders have replied to my letter that they accept this mode of estimating the contents of the column, and its price, and yet I know, from past information, that many quarrymen, in bidding for columns like these, would estimate the marble to be paid for at over three hundred cubic feet, or double the net contents of the finished shaft, thus doubling the cost per shaft.

I have now received answers from all the bidders except Mr. H. G. Beach.

The original bids and answers to the letter of inquiry are herewith.

I have also caused an abstract of the bids to be made, but there is such a variety in the offers that I have not found it possible to make an abstract which will thoroughly compare them, and dispense with a careful examination of each bid in making a decision.

Some of the bids were not accompanied with specimens of the marble offered, as required by the advertisement, and should, therefore, under the rules which control these lettings, be ruled out. One (that of Mr. Waterman) was not received within the time to which the bidding was limited. It was offered to me while reading other bids, received before 12 o'clock on the 4th of December, and the bearer was informed that he was too late. As he remained in the room, however, after completing the reading of the bids received within the time, I informed him that, if he wished it, I would now open and read his bid to the gentlemen assembled, and send it to the War Department, marked as having been received after time, and, therefore, excluded from the competition.

The advertisement calls for "white American marble, similar, in color, grain, and composition, to that used in the exterior of the Capitol extension.

None of the specimens received precisely fulfill this condition of the advertisement. While an examination of these specimens may serve to determine that certain offers should be rejected, none of them will justify the conclusion of a contract in a matter of this importance without a careful examination of the quarry from which the stone is to be taken. It is easy to procure a specimen containing a cubic foot which shall be of good color and quality, but very few quarries will afford blocks four feet thick, of good and uniform color; and perhaps none in this country will afford monoliths suitable for these columns.



Quarrymen are sanguine in their expectations and liberal in their promises ; but I have seen too many cases of disappointment in this business to place much reliance in the opinions of those interested in a marble quarry.

With these general remarks, which appear to me necessary to enable you to make a proper comparison of these bids, I submit the bids and the abstract for your consideration, adding some notes upon the quality of the specimens received.

Mr. Symington's Danby marble is not a magnesian limestone, and does not resemble the Lee marble, either in color, grain, or composition.

The Baltimore county marble is a magnesian limestone, but inferior in color and grain.

A. Maxwell and Co.'s marble is a magnesian limestone, but inferior to the Lee in beauty. The south front of the General Post Office is from this neighborhood.

In their letter of the 13th, they make some further proposals.

John F. Connelly's Baltimore county marble is a magnesian limestone, similar in composition to the Lee marble, but not equal to it in beauty. The new portions of the east and west fronts of the Post Office are of this marble. The most rigid inspection has not enabled me to exclude from these fronts many blocks of stone which, by their bad color, disfigured the building, the defects showing particularly on damp days.

Henry G. Beach sends no specimen. His bid should, by the rules, be excluded from competition.

Wilson & Crommelian's specimen is a magnesian limestone. Of the quarry I have no knowledge.

John R. Briggs, President of the Canaan Marble Company, sends a specimen of magnesian limestone, which is from the neighborhood of Lee. The specimen is a good one, nearly equal to the Lee marble in color and grain.

Of the quarry, I know nothing. It is reported to be within thirty miles of Lee. An examination of it, hardly possible at this season, when it is probably covered with snow, should be made before venturing upon a contract, should this proposal appear satisfactory.

S. A. Waterman's bid is sent herewith for information, though it is excluded from competition, having been offered too late, and no specimen accompanying it.

The specimens received are at this office. I await your instructions whether to keep them here, or send them to the department.

In conclusion, I respectfully report to the department, that none of the bids herewith offer a reasonable prospect of completing the Capitol extension within the next four years, and that none of them will probably supply column shafts which will be suitable for such a building, or with which the people of the United States will be satisfied hereafter.

All marble columns, built up of small pieces, in this climate quickly decay at the joints.

The climate of Italy, of Greece, and of Egypt, is not so destructive

to buildings as ours; and had the porticoes of the Pantheon been built at Washington, their ruins would by this time have disappeared.

They are now in ruins even in the climate of Greece, and yet the area of the base of one of these columns is more than four times as great as that of a column of the Capitol extension.

The offer of the contractors, Messrs. Rice & Heebner, to complete their contract of 30th March, 1854, by supplying, at their contract price, monolithic shafts of Italian marble, instead of the Lee marble, which their quarry does not afford, appears to me to be the only offer yet received which should be accepted.

Considerations of economy involved in the speedy completion of the building so desirable for the convenience of Congress, and the stopping of the heavy expenditures, which must continue so long as the building is under construction, recommend this offer as the most advantageous to the United States.

The greater beauty and durability of monolithic shafts induced Congress, by a unanimous vote, to authorize this contract. The building is built in the most substantial and durable manner thus far; and as its constructor, I confess to a strong desire that its porticoes should not be built in an inferior manner, nor of an inferior material.

I send, herewith, a letter from Messrs. Rice, Heebner & Baird, contractors for marble for the exterior of the Capitol extension, which was handed to me as I completed the public reading of the proposals, and in which, as contractors, they enter a protest against the award to any other person of the supply of marble for the columns.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers in charge of Capitol Extension.*

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,

*Secretary of War.*

Since the above report was written, Henry G. Beach's reply to my letter of the 6th instant, has been received, and accompanies this communication.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers.*

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NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT,  
December 1, 1858.

DEAR SIR: I contemplated offering bids to furnish marble blocks for columns for the exterior porticoes of the Capitol extension, and each block to make one column. The specimen block was placed in the hands of a workman to dress down to size, but owing to carelessness on his part it was broken too small to answer your proposals. The occurrence is one of disappointment and regret, as the quarry is nearly one hundred miles from here, and as the bids are all to be in time for the 4th instant, and am therefore obliged to withhold my bid, owing to the accident referred to.

I beg leave to be informed if further time should be allowed for parties to present bids in order to send you a block of marble.

I am, dear sir, yours most respectfully,

WILSON H. CLARK.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers.*

BALTIMORE, November 29, 1858.

I offer to furnish for the United States Capitol extension, one hundred marble column shafts, and deliver them on the Capitol grounds in Washington city, in such shape and within the time that may be agreed upon.

I propose to furnish from my quarry at Danby, Vermont, (see sample A,) within three years from June 1, 1859, 100 column shafts, in blocks not less than three feet high, with the natural bed of the stone horizontal.

For each shaft.....	\$700
100 shafts, each in two pieces, for each shaft.....	1,000
20 or more shafts, in monolith, the lower end of each jointing above the fillet of the base, thus,* for each one.....	1,400

I propose to furnish 100 shafts of Baltimore county marble, (see sample B,) within three years from the 1st day of June, 1859, as follows:

100 shafts in blocks not less than four feet high, for each shaft...	\$650
For every shaft in two pieces, and not less than twenty shafts...	900
For every monolith, and not less than twenty.....	1,300
For every monolith, and not less than twenty, with lower end jointing above the fillet.....	1,100

Payment to be made monthly for all that may be delivered in Washington and approved of.

THOMAS SYMINGTON.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,

*In charge of the United States Capitol Extension.*

REMARKS.

It is probable that many more of the shafts than the number above stated can be furnished in monoliths, as also many more of those in two pieces. It is probable the whole number of columns may be furnished in two years.

The column shafts at the Patent Office wings are each in nine pieces, and were furnished by the bidder.

We, the undersigned, residents of Baltimore, in the State of Maryland, hereby jointly and severally covenant with the United States, and guaranty, in case the foregoing bid of Thomas Symington be ac-

\* For design see original.

cepted, that he will, within ten days after the acceptance of the said bid, execute the contract for the same with good and sufficient sureties, to furnish the articles proposed in conformity to the terms of the advertisement, under which it was made. And in case the said Thomas Symington shall fail to enter into contract as aforesaid, we guaranty to make good the difference between the offer by the said Thomas Symington, and the next lowest bidder.

JOHN W. MAXWELL.  
JOHN MAXWELL.

I hereby certify, that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the above named guarantors are good and sufficient.

JOHN THOMAS MASON,  
*Collector Port of Baltimore.*

Captain M. C. MEIGS,  
*United States Engineers.*

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No. 128 CHAMBERS STREET, NEW YORK,  
*December 1, 1858.*

SIR: We propose to furnish the marble for the columns of the exterior porticoes of the Capitol extension out of marble from our quarries at Tuckahoe and Searsdale, Eastchester, as per specimens accompanying this proposal.

We will agree to furnish the one hundred columns in blocks of four to six feet in length, in two years from this date, or say at rate of fifty columns per year.

Our estimate for the marble out of the Tuckahoe quarries, "specimen marked No. 1," will be three dollars (\$3) per cubic foot, and from the Searsdale quarry, "specimen marked No. 2," will be two dollars and seventy-five cents per cubic foot, (\$2 75,) delivered on the grounds of the Capitol extension, and scrabbled to dimensions.

ALEXANDER MAXWELL & CO.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,  
*United States Engineers.*

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We the undersigned residents of the city of New York, in the State of New York, hereby jointly and severally covenant with the United States, and guaranty, in the case the foregoing bid of Alexander Maxwell & Co. be accepted, that we will within ten days after the acceptance of said bid, execute the contract for the same, with good and sufficient sureties to perform the work or furnish the articles proposed, in conformity with the terms of the advertisement under which it was made. And in case the said Alexander Maxwell & Co. shall fail to enter into contract as aforesaid, we guaranty to make good the

difference between the offer by the said Alexander Maxwell & Co., and the next lowest bidder.

WM. McARTHUR,  
M. PEMMAN.

In presence of—  
BENJAMIN GILBRATH.

I hereby certify, that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the above-named guarantors are good and sufficient.

The several subscribers to the above obligation being severally duly sworn, each for himself, says that he is a citizen of the United States, and a resident and householder within the city and county of New York, and is worth the sum of \$20,000 over and above all his debts and liabilities, and property exempt from execution.

WM. McARTHUR,  
M. PEMMAN.

Sworn to by all the deponents before me, this 1st day of December, 1858.

L. PITKIN,  
*Commissioner of Deeds.*

CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK, ss:

I certify, that on this 1st day of December, 1858, William McArthur and Marion Pemman, above-named, to me known to be the same persons described in, and who executed the foregoing instrument, personally appeared before me, and acknowledged that they executed the above instrument as their own free act, for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

L. PITKIN,  
*Commissioner of Deeds.*

NEW YORK, *December 2, 1858.*

On the foregoing affidavit, I certify, that in my belief, the above named guarantors are sufficient to make good the guarantee aforesaid

THEODORE SEDGWICK,  
*United States District Attorney.*

Captain M. C. MEIGS,  
*United States Engineers.*

BALTIMORE, *November 22, 1858.*

I propose to furnish the one hundred marble shafts or columns for the Capitol extension advertised for September 30, 1858, in one piece, for fifteen hundred and fifty dollars per column.

Or I will furnish them in blocks of not less than four feet for five hundred and fifty dollars per column.

Or, if a bid would be accepted for them in two pieces, I will furnish them in two pieces for nine hundred and seventy-five dollars per column. I also propose to furnish the above one hundred shafts in two years.

The marble for the above shafts or columns to be furnished out of the quarry known as Connolly's quarry, near Texas, in Baltimore county, a block of which is respectfully submitted by your obedient servant,

JOHN F. CONNOLLY.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,

*U. S. Engineers, Washington, D. C.*

We, the undersigned, residents of Baltimore city, in the State of Maryland, hereby jointly and severally covenant with the United States, and guaranty, in case the foregoing bid of John F. Connolly be accepted, that he will, within ten days after the acceptance of the said bid, execute the contract for the same, with good and sufficient sureties to perform the work or furnish the articles proposed in conformity to the terms of the advertisement under which it was made. And, in case the said John F. Connolly shall fail to enter into contract as aforesaid, we guaranty to make good the difference between the offer by the said John F. Connolly and the next lowest bidder.

JOHN B. CONNOLLY, [SEAL.]  
THOMAS F. CONNOLLY, [SEAL.]

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the above-named guarantors are good and sufficient.

WM. MEADE ADDISON,  
*U. S. Attorney, Md. Dist.*

Captain M. C. MEIGS,

*U. S. Engineers.*

BALDWINVILLE, ONONDAGA,  
December 1, 1858.

*Proposals for shafts.*

I, Henry G. Beach, of Onondaga county, State of New York, hereby agree to furnish, in accordance to, and in every respect complying with, the advertisement dated September 30, 1858, and signed by M. C. Meigs, Captain of engineers in charge of Capitol extension, one hundred shafts of marble, delivered at the Capitol. If practicable, to procure the shafts whole, and of American marble, at twenty-five hundred dollars for each shaft, and to deliver all the shafts within two years from the date of signing the contract.

And I hereby agree to furnish and deliver at the Capitol one hundred shafts of American marble, in blocks of not less than four feet in length, at twelve hundred and fifty dollars for each shaft, and to commence to deliver in May, 1859, and deliver as fast as the blocks which the government will accept can be procured from the Massachusetts quarries, or from other quarries approved by the department, and to finish and deliver all the shafts abovementioned within two years from the signing of the contract.

HENRY G. BEACH.

*Guarantee.*

DECEMBER 3, 1858.

I, the undersigned, resident of Utica, New York, in the State of New York, hereby covenant with the United States, and guaranty, in case the foregoing bid of Henry G. Beach be accepted, that he will, within ten days after the acceptance of the said bid, execute the contract for the same, with good and sufficient sureties to perform the work or furnish the articles proposed in conformity to the terms of the advertisement under which it was made, and in case the said Henry G. Beach shall fail to enter into contract as aforesaid, I guaranty to make good the difference between the offer of the said Henry G. Beach and the next lowest bidder.

S. B. GARVIN.

Captain M. C. MEIGS, *U. S. Engineers.*

DECEMBER 3, 1858.

I hereby certify, to the best of [my] knowledge and belief, the above named guarantor is good and sufficient.

S. V. BUTTERWORTH,  
*Supt. U. S. Assay Office, New York.*

NEW YORK, December 2, 1858.

SIR: The undersigned do hereby propose, as per advertisement dated September 30, 1858, to furnish, on the grounds of extension of the Capitol, one hundred shafts for columns, agreeable to specifications as to size, &c., and of quality equal to specimen submitted. Said shafts in single blocks, from South Dover quarries, Dutchess county, State of New York. Said shafts to be delivered on grounds of Capitol, at Washington, District of Columbia, in two years from 1st of March, 1859. If in single blocks, for \$3,050 each; making, in the whole, \$305,000.

We also propose, if in pieces, as per specification and sample offered, for the sum of \$920 each, making, for the whole, \$92,000, to be delivered on the grounds of Capitol, at Washington, District of Columbia, in one year and six months from 1st of March, 1859.

JOSEPH WILSON,  
WM. H. CROMMELIN.

NEW YORK, December 2, 1858.

We, the undersigned, residents of Brooklyn and New York cities, in the State of New York, hereby jointly and severally covenant with the United States, and guaranty, in case the foregoing bid of Messrs. Wilson & Crommelin be accepted, that he or they will, within ten days after the acceptance of said bid, execute the contract with the same with good and sufficient sureties to perform the work or furnish the articles proposed, in conformity to the terms of the advertisement

under which it was made; and in case the said Wilson & Crommelin shall fail to enter into contract, as aforesaid, we guaranty to make good the difference between the offer by the said Wilson & Crommelin and the next lowest bidder.

E. B. LITCHFIELD,  
JAMES ROGERS.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,  
*United States Engineer.*

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the above-named guarantors are good and sufficient.

GEORGE W. SANDERS, *Navy Agent*,  
Per GEORGE A. BLOOD, *Chief Clerk*.  
GEORGE J. FORREST.

NEW YORK, *December 1, 1858.*

We, the undersigned, propose to furnish the marble columns, in three or four equal pieces each, for the extension of the Capitol at Washington, District of Columbia, according to the advertisement dated September 30, 1858, for the sum of \$425 each, or \$1 90 per foot cubic. The quarry which we propose to furnish the marble from is situated at Canaan, Connecticut, about thirty miles from the Lee quarry, and the sample of marble is labelled "Canaan Marble Company," William G. Chase, agent. We can begin to furnish the marble about the 1st of April next, and furnish the whole amount by the 1st day of December next, or sooner if required.

JOHN R. BRIGGS,  
*President Canaan Marble Company*,  
WM. G. CHASE,  
*Agent and Treasurer.*

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain of Engineers.*

We propose, also, to furnish the columns in one piece, as called for in the same advertisement, for the sum of \$3,282 dollars each column, and deliver them within two years from the 1st day of May next. Stone from the same quarry.

JOHN R. BRIGGS,  
*President Canaan Marble Company*,  
WM. G. CHASE,  
*Agent and Treasurer.*

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain of Engineers.*

NEW YORK, *December 1, 1858.*

We, the undersigned, residents of the city of New York, in the State of New York, hereby jointly and severally covenant with the United States, and guaranty, in case the foregoing bid of the Canaan Marble Company, John R. Briggs, president, and William G. Chase, agent, be accepted, that they will, within ten days after the acceptance of said



bid, execute the contract for the same with good and sufficient sureties to perform the work, or furnish the articles proposed, in conformity to the terms of the advertisement under which it was made; and in case the said Canaan Marble Company shall fail to enter into contract, as aforesaid, we guaranty to make good the difference between the offer of the said Canaan Marble Company and the next lowest bidder.

JAMES PALMER,  
No. 10, *Livingston Place*.  
ANTHONY J. HILL,  
*Astor House*.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,  
*United States Engineers*.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the above-named guarantors are good and sufficient.

ISAAC V. FOWLER,  
*Postmaster, New York, N. Y.*

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WASHINGTON, *December 4, 1858.*

The undersigned will furnish the shafts in columns, one hundred in number, (100,) in whole pieces, delivered on the grounds of the Capitol, at \$1,184; in two pieces, at \$826; in four pieces, at \$660.

S. A. WATERMAN.

Captain M. C. MEIGS, *U. S. Engineers*.

We, the undersigned, residents of \_\_\_\_\_, in the State of New York, hereby jointly and severally covenant with the United States, and guaranty, in case the foregoing bids of Mr. S. A. Waterman be accepted, that he or they will, within ten days after the acceptance of the said bid, execute the contract for the same, with good and sufficient sureties to perform the work or furnish the articles proposed, in conformity to the terms of the advertisement under which it was made; and, in case the said Waterman shall fail to enter into contract as aforesaid, we guaranty to make good the difference between the offer by the said Waterman and the next lowest bidder.

ERASTUS CORNING.  
DAVID HAMILTON.

WASHINGTON, *December 4, 1858.*

I hereby certify, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the above named guarantors are good and sufficient.

Samples on the way, and will be here immediately. If contract is awarded, will commence delivering three months from date.

S. A. W.

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WASHINGTON, *December 6, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: On opening the proposals for marble shafts for columns of exterior porticoes of the Capitol extension on the 4th instant, I found, contrary to my expectations, that part of the bids were made per cubic foot instead of per shaft.

I shall use in comparing the different proposals, the *net* cubic contents of shafts—*i. e.* their cubic contents when finished.

Please inform me as soon as possible, if you are willing to abide by your bid with this understanding.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers in Charge.*

Mr. JOHN F. CONNELLY.

Similar letters were addressed to the following parties: S. A. Waterman, Wilson & Crommelin; John R. Briggs, President Canaan Marble Company; Alex. Maxwell & Company; Henry G. Beach, Thomas Symington.

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BALTIMORE, *December 13, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 6th instant, is at hand informing me that you will, in comparing the different proposals, use the net cubic contents of the shaft, (when finished,) and asking me if I am willing to abide by my bids with this understanding. In view of the fact that the universal custom of quarry men is to square the largest dimensions in measuring a block of stone, I think that Mr. Maxwell's bid, or any others like it, should be measured by that rule or rejected; *otherwise it* gives him or them, an opportunity of double-dealing to the exclusion of other bidders. Had Mr. Maxwell paid any attention to your advertisement for proposals, he would have seen that his bid was not in conformity to it; and further, that his stone was not suitable. You can see a fair sample of his stone in the old part of the General Post Office building, and in the portico columns of Brown's hotel in Washington.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. SYMINGTON.

Captain M. C. MEIGS, *United States Engineers,*

*In charge of the U. S. Capitol Extension, Washington, D. C.*

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No. 128 CHAMBERS STREET, NEW YORK,  
*December 13, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: In answer to your favor of date 6th instant, we have to say that we will abide by our bid made on the 4th instant, for marble for shafts, Capitol extension, and will accept your measurement of their cubic contents when finished.

Our estimate is for block of four to six feet in length; but if you will allow us to add to that offer, we will propose to furnish blocks of a larger size—say in one, two, or three pieces per shaft.

Our price for blocks of two pieces per shaft, out of marble marked number one, will be four dollars and fifty cents (\$4 50) per cubic foot; in blocks of three pieces per shaft, our price will be for marble number

one, three dollars and fifty cents; (\$3 50;) and from marble number two, will be three dollars and twenty-five cents (\$3 25) per cubic foot.

We also propose to furnish twenty-five of the shafts in one piece, out of the number one marble, for two thousand dollars, (\$2,000,) and out of number two marble, for nineteen hundred dollars, (\$1,900.)

We will agree to furnish all the above in two years. But if longer time was allowed, would undertake more of the shafts in single blocks.

Should you think favorably of our offer, we will be pleased to have you visit our quarries; and any communication addressed as above, will receive immediate attention.

Yours, very respectfully,

ALEX. MAXWELL & CO.

Captain M. C. MEIGS.

WASHINGTON, *December 11, 1858.*

SIR: I received your note of 6th instant, and beg leave to say, in reply, that on considering the advertisement for the proposals, I was of the opinion that no bid would be received, otherwise than to furnish per column, without leaving the mode of measurement a subject of equivocation after the bids were opened. If such bids are to be received, I am of the opinion they should be calculated by the rule adopted for the measurement of marble already furnished for the Capitol.

But should you think just to adopt the rule, to take the dimensions of the columns after they are finished, I am willing to submit to your judgment in the matter.

Respectfully,

JNO. T. CONNOLLY.

Captain M. C. MEIGS.

BALDWINVILLE, *December 14, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: Yours of the 6th instant came to hand this morning. My bids for marble shafts were made in strict conformity to your advertisement, at so much per shaft, and I cannot see how the computation of other bids per *cubic foot* is to change the aggregate of mine in the least. I will, therefore, submit to any computation you see fit to make, and will enter into contract immediately if the contract should be awarded to me.

Yours, truly,

HENRY G. BEACH.

Captain M. C. MEIGS.

NEW YORK, *December 14, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: We received your communication in reference to the bids for shafts of Capitol extension yesterday, and beg leave to say, in

reply, that we submit to your judgment of what is fair and proper in the matter, only asking that, in making the calculation as to the quantity of feet in the shafts, you take largest diameter of column to multiply by their length, (instead of the average diameter,) such being the custom with all dealers in marble or freestone from our American quarries.

Very, respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. WILSON,  
WM. H. CROMMELIN.

Captain M. C. MEIGS.

NEW YORK, *December 13, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 6th instant is just received by me this day. In answer, will say that our bid is as follows: For the columns in three or four pieces of marble, \$425 each column, or \$1 90 per cubic foot for the pieces, according to the size, when finished ready to go in the building. Our bid for the single columns is \$3,280 dollars each.

Yours, respectfully,

JOHN R. BRIGGS,  
*President Canaan Marble Company.*

Captain MEIGS.

NATIONAL HOTEL,  
*Washington, December 11, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: In answer to your letter of 6th instant, you are herewith respectfully informed that I will adhere to any proposal at the price per shaft.

Your obedient servant,

S. A. WATERMAN.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,  
*Engineer of U. S. Capitol Extension.*

PHILADELPHIA, *December 3, 1858.*

SIR: We observed in the papers an advertisement, over your signature, for proposals for column shafts for the extension of the United States Capitol. Inasmuch as we are already the contractors for furnishing said shafts, and our contract not having been declared void, we respectfully protest against the aforesaid shafts being awarded to others while our contract remains in force.

Very respectfully yours,

RICE, BAIRD & HEEBNER,  
*Contractors for furnishing the marble for the Capitol Extension.*

Captain M. C. MEIGS,  
*Engineer in charge U. S. Capitol Extension.*

*Comparison of proposals for marble shafts for extension of United States Capitol, December 4, 1858.*

	Monoliths.	Monoliths, joint above fillet.	Shafts in two pieces.	Blocks not less than four feet.	Blocks not less than four feet.	Total.	Remarks.
Thomas S. Simington.....	<i>Per shaft.</i>	<i>Per shaft.</i>	<i>Per shaft.</i>	<i>Per shaft.</i>	<i>Pr.cub.ft.</i>	\$70,000 00	Blocks not less than three feet. Danby quarry, Vermont, Specimens marked A; Baltimore county quarry, Maryland, specimen marked B.
Do .....			\$1,000 00			100,000 00	
Do .....		\$1,400 00				28,000 00	Will furnish 20 or more shafts.
Do.....	\$1,300 00					26,000 00	Will furnish not less than 20 shafts.
Do.....		1,100 00				22,000 00	Will furnish not less than 20 shafts.
Do.....			900 00			18,000 00	Will furnish not less than 20 shafts.
Do.....				650 00		65,000 00	To be furnished within three years from June 1, 1859. Mr. S. states that it is probable many more shafts than the number stated can be furnished in monoliths, as also in two pieces; and that it is possible that the whole number may be furnished in two years.
Alexander Maxwell & Co. ....					\$3 00	45,736 00	Tuckahoe quarry, East Chester, New York; specimen marked No. 1.
Do.....					2 75	43,758 00	Searsdale quarry, East Chester, New York; specimen marked No. 2.
John F. Connolly .....	1,500 00					155,000 00	Blocks 4 to 6 feet in length; to be furnished in two years from December 1, 1858.
Do.....			975 00			97,500 00	From Connolly's quarry, near Texas, Baltimore county, Maryland; to be furnished in two years.
Do.....				550 00		55,000 00	
Henry G. Beach.....	2,500 00					250,000 00	If practicable to procure them; to be delivered within two years from date of signing the contract. To be obtained from Massachusetts quarries, or from others approved by the Department.

## Comparison of proposals for marble shafts, &amp;c.—Continued.

	Monoliths.	Monoliths, joint above fillet.	Shafts in two pieces.	Blocks not less than four feet.	Blocks not less than four feet.	Total.	Remarks.
	<i>Per shaft.</i>	<i>Per shaft.</i>	<i>Per shaft.</i>	<i>Per shaft.</i>	<i>Pr. cub. ft.</i>		
Henry G. Beach.....				1,250 00		\$125,000 00	To commence delivering in May, 1859, and to deliver all the shafts within two years from date of signing the contract.
Wilson & Crommelin.....	\$3,050 00					305,000 00	To be furnished in two years from March 1, 1859.
Do.....				\$920 00		92,000 00	To be furnished in 18 months from March 1, 1859. To be supplied from South Dover quarry, Dutchess county, New York.
John R. Briggs, President Canaan Marble Co.....				425 00		42,500 00	From Canaan quarry, Connecticut, 30 miles from Lee (Mass.) quarry. In three or four pieces, delivered in two years from May 1, 1859.
Do.....					1 90	30,232 80	Will commence delivering April 1, 1859, and finish December 1, 1859, or sooner if required.
Do.....	3,282 00					328,200 00	Will commence delivering three months from December 4, 1858.
S. A. Waterman.....	1,184 00					118,400 00	In four pieces.
Do.....			\$826 00			82,600 00	
Do.....				660 00		66,000 00	

I have not been able to make an abstract which will clearly show the various conditions. The original bids, and the answers to the circular letter of December 6, addressed to the several bidders, should be carefully examined before making a final decision.

M. C. MEIGS,  
United States Engineer in charge of U. S. Capitol Extension.

LEE, *September 26, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: \* \* \* \* \*

I cut out of a letter from Carrara, dated September 1, the following, from which you will see what Messrs. Walton & Nephews say about columns:

"We are glad to hear that the column matter will soon be decided, for we have two more blocks, just excavated, that will give about a dozen, and which we cannot long leave in their present position; nor can we afford to keep so much marble in its present form.

Yours, truly,

CHAS. HEEBNER.

M. C. MEIGS, *Captain Engineers,*  
*In charge U. S. Capitol and Post Office Extensions.*

HASTINGS, *December 23, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: If you have not made a contract for furnishing the marble columns for the extension of the Capitol, I would like to make you a bid, in accordance with your advertisement, each shaft in six blocks, from the quarry at Hastings, being the same kind of marble now being furnished for the custom-house at Charleston, South Carolina.

If there should be an opportunity for me to make you a bid, please address me, Hastings upon Hudson, New York.

Yours, very respectfully,

JOHN L. CAULKINS.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,  
*Engineer in Charge.*

DECEMBER 27, 1858.

DEAR SIR: I am in receipt of your letter of the 23d instant, and in reply have to state that the proposals for shafts for columns of Capitol extension have been submitted to the Secretary of War for his decision.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers, in charge of Capitol Extension.*

Mr. JOHN L. CAULKINS,  
*Hastings upon Hudson, Westchester county, N. Y.*

NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, *December 24, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: I wrote you explaining why I did not bid for the contract to furnish marble blocks for the Capitol extension columns. I regret that the papers prepared for the purpose were not sent to you.

I hope you will pardon me for sending them at this late day, inasmuch as your proposals contained a reservation to reject any or all bids, &c., and make new arrangements, if deemed advantageous, &c.

I send the papers for an additional reason, viz: I have become convinced since I wrote you that the failure to send the block was the result of design on the part of the person having charge of obtaining the specimen block. I did not have charge of that matter myself, but intrusted it to a person in whom I had reposed confidence.

If you have not closed your contract, and if any different arrangements are to be made, it would be very gratifying to me to hear from you.

I have a small specimen of marble in Major Bowman's Office, Treasury Department, which will afford you an idea of composition, grain, and color of my marble. It is not, however, an average sample, inasmuch as it is surface specimen.

A block will be forwarded to you if desired, to compare with specimens sent from other quarries.

I had a partner by the name of Higgins. I have recently bought him out, so that the whole matter is in my own hands.

I am, dear sir, your most respectfully,

WILSON H. CLARK.

Captain M. C. MEIGS,

*Of Engineers in charge of U. S. Capitol Extension,*

NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, *November 1, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: We, the subscribers, both of the town and county of New Haven, and State of Connecticut, do made the following bid, for furnishing one hundred shafts or columns called for in your circular, issued September 30, 1858, by order of the Secretary of War, to wit: We propose to furnish the one hundred shafts in single blocks, each block to make one column, for ten dollars per superficial foot; the marble to be similar in grain, color, and composition to the specimen furnished by us, and to be delivered within two years.

WILSON H. CLARK,  
NOYES HIGGINS.

M. C. MEIGS, *Captain of Engineers,*

*In charge of the U. S. Capitol Extension.*

NEW YORK, *November 3, 1858.*

SIR: We, the undersigned, residents of the city of New York, in the State of New York, hereby jointly and severally covenant with the United States, and guarantee, in case the foregoing bid of Wilson H. Clark and Noyes Higgins be accepted, that they will, within ten days after the acceptance of the said bid, execute the contract for the same, with good and sufficient sureties, to perform the work or furnish the articles proposed in conformity to the terms of the advertisement under



which it was made. And, in case the said William H. Clark and Nyses Higgins shall fail to enter into contract as aforesaid, we guaranty to make good the difference between the offer by the said Wilson H. Clark and Noyes Higgins and the next lowest bidder.

HORACE ANDREWS, [SEAL]  
GEO. D. SARGEANT. [SEAL]

Captain C. MEIGS,  
*U. S. Engineers.*

I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the above named guarantors are good and sufficient.

D. B. TAYLOR,  
*U. S. Despatch Agent at New York*

DECEMBER 27, 1858.

DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 24th, with bid for marble column shafts for the porticos of the Capitol extension, is received.

The bids received under the advertisement have been for some time in the hands of the Secretary of War.

I send this bid, just received, to the War Department; but I do not think that it will receive consideration without some explanation of what you mean by superficial feet.

How many feet do you understand to be in each shaft?

You had better amend the bid by stating a fixed sum per shaft, delivered here, at the building.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS, *Capt. of Eng'rs.*

WILSON H. CLARK, *New Haven, Conn.*

DECEMBER 27, 1858.

SIR: I have just received the inclosed letter from Mr. W. H. Clark, of New Haven, Connecticut, with his bid accompanying it, and signed Wilson H. Clark and Noyes Higgins. They offer to deliver one hundred shafts for the Capitol extension columns, monolithic, at ten dollars per superficial foot. The bid is too late for the competition; but I send it to the department, for whatever action it may take upon it. How many superficial feet the bidder may count to a column I do not know, and I have therefore addressed to Mr. Clark a letter, a copy of which is inclosed, advising him to make his bid more specific, and to state his price per shaft.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS, *Capt. of Eng'rs*

*In charge of Capitol Extension.*

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,  
*Secretary of War.*

NEW HAVEN, CONN., *December 30, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: Your letter of 27th instant is before me.

My bid, sent you on the 24th instant, for contract to furnish marble shafts for Capitol extension, was made upon the estimate of two hundred and sixty feet per column, twenty-six hundred dollars per shaft.

I beg leave to amend my bid, by inserting after the words "*superficial foot*," the words, "or twenty-six hundred dollars per block."

You are authorized to insert the words, if necessary, or you may consider this letter as the supplement explanatory of the contract, as will be most proper.

I am, dear sir, your very obedient servant,

WILSON H. CLARK.

M. C. MEIGS, *Capt. of Eng'rs in charge*

*of U. S. Capitol Extension, Washington, D. C.*

JANUARY 1, 1859.

Respectfully transmitted to the Secretary of War in connection with Mr. Clark's bid.

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers in charge.*

JANUARY 1, 1859.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose a letter from Mr. Wilson H. Clark, of Connecticut, explaining his bid for column shafts for the Capitol extension.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers, in charge.*

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD, *Secretary of War.*

WAR DEPARTMENT, *December 28, 1858.*

DEAR CAPTAIN: The Secretary desires that you will send him the contract of Rice, Baird & Heebner (referred to in their protest) for the shafts; and also to know whether the contract has been forfeited or declared void. Please answer by bearer.

Very truly, yours,

JOHN POTTS.

H STREET, WASHINGTON, *December 28, 1858.*

SIR: On my return after dark to-night from the aqueduct, I received Mr. Potts's letter informing me that you wished me to send to the War Department the contract of Rice, Baird & Heebner, (referred to in their protest,) and also you wished to know whether the contract has been forfeited or declared void.

The original contract will be sent up from the Capitol Extension Office in the morning. It is printed, however, in Executive docu-

ment No. 139, 34th Congress, 1st session, House of Representatives, at page 114. Their first contract is at page 103, same document.

The contract is still in force, a very large quantity of marble having been delivered under it during the past year, over 70,000 feet, costing some \$140,000, if my memory of the statement in my annual report is correct.

It has not been forfeited or declared void, and it would be a great error by declaring it void or forfeited, to release the contractors from their obligations to complete the supply of marble for the work.

Through all the negotiations, which their inability to supply the monolithic shafts from the Lee quarry has caused during the last two years, I have carefully abstained from giving them any reasons to expect a release from the obligations of their contract, and have so reported to the department when heretofore reporting upon the letters and propositions of Mr. John Rice referred to me by the department.

We could not at this time, in my opinion, make a new contract for the very large quantity of marble still needed for the building, likely to be fulfilled on terms as advantageous as to a speedy supply, and as to price as their contract of March 30, 1854, which was made under the authority of joint resolution of Congress of 20th February of that year. The contractors have now the advantage of six years' experience in this business, a quarry thoroughly opened, a large plant of machinery, cars, &c., and a thorough organization for the work.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers, in charge of Capitol Extension.*

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,  
*Secretary of War.*

OFFICE OF UNITED STATES CAPITOL EXTENSION,  
*Washington, December 29, 1858.*

SIR: In compliance with your request, as expressed through Mr. Potts, I have the honor to transmit, herewith, the supplemental contract made with Rice, Baird & Heebner, marble contractors, under authority of the joint resolution of Congress, approved March 1, 1854, with my letter submitting the same to the department, and upon which is endorsed the approval of the Secretary of War.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Z. W. DENHAM,

*By direction of Captain Meigs.*

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,  
*Secretary of War.*

NEW HAVEN, *February 24, 1859.*

SIR: When I sent in my bids for furnishing marble blocks for columns for Capitol extension, I was under the necessity of referring you to specimens in Major Bowman's office, Treasury Department.

If the contract has not been awarded to any one, and the Secretary of War is to further examine the subject, I could, if it is not too late, furnish an additional specimen for inspection, if it would be received in a short time. The specimen referred to was not an average one, as it was taken from the surface.

I regret to trouble you with any inquiries in regard to the matter, but would respectfully beg leave to inquire if any further samples of marble would be received at this time. It would be highly gratifying to me to hear from you, if not incompatible with the regulations of the department.

I am, dear sir, your very obedient servant,

WILSON H. CLARK.

M. C. MEIGS, *Captain of Engineers*

*In charge of Capitol Extension, Washington, D. C.*

WASHINGTON, *February 26, 1859.*

DEAR SIR: Yours of the 24th is received. I am unable to give you any information in regard to the bids for marble column shafts for Capitol extension.

The bids were reported by me shortly after they were opened in my office to the Secretary of War. There they remain, and whatever action, if any, there has been upon them, has not been communicated to me.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain Engineers in charge of Capitol Extension, &c.*

WILSON H. CLARK,

*New Haven, Connecticut.*

EAST DORSET, VERMONT, *March 23, 1859.*

DEAR SIR: Will you allow us for one moment to call your attention to the consideration of our Vermont Italian quarry, located at this place, from which we are confident we can now get out the 100 columns for the Capitol, which columns you have had so much difficulty in procuring. We would prefer to get them in pieces 6 feet long each, but can get them 8 feet, or even 12 feet long each piece, making two pieces in a column of 24 feet length. We have never had any difficulty in getting the requisite thickness.

Our quarry has greatly improved in the last two years, by going farther back from the surface.

We are informed, though, perhaps, not correctly, that the party who took the job of getting these columns, some three or four months since, is likely to fail in his effort to procure them.

This is the reason why we write you at this time. If it is not too late to receive propositions for this job, or a part of it, we would like to hand in a proposition.

We have heretofore declined to make a proposition, fearing we could

not get all the columns from our quarry in any reasonable time, but this obstacle is no longer in our way. We *know* we can now get out the thing you want with promptness, all sound, and in all other respects just what it should be.

You have a sample of our marble, as sent you by Parker, Holly & Co., some four years ago.

As its name indicates, it clearly resembles the Italian marble.

We will, accompanying this letter, send you a pamphlet containing our address on the marbles of Vermont, on the 13th page of which you will see a notice and rough sketch of the location of our quarry.

Alexander Rutherford, of Washington, is somewhat acquainted with this marble.

Very respectfully, yours,

HOLLY, FIELDS & KENT.

Mr. M. C. MEIGS.

[Indorsement.]

Respectfully referred to the Secretary of War, and the writer so informed.

I think the marble not so good as the Italian, and its cost is not stated.

Respectfully submitted.

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain of Engineers.*

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MARCH 30, 1859.

DEAR SIRS: Your letter of 23d March has been referred to the Secretary of War, in whose hands are the bids of last December for the shafts of the columns of the Capitol extension.

No decision has yet been made by the department on this subject, and perhaps you will do well to write to the Secretary on the subject.

You did not state your price in your letter of 23d instant.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain of Engineers.*

KELLY, FIELDS & KENT, *East Dorset, Vermont.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT, *March 29, 1859.*

SIR: Your communication of the 21st of December last alludes to the inability of Rice, Baird & Heebner to supply the monolithic shafts for the Capitol, and of your having abstained from giving them any reason to expect a release from the obligations of their contracts, by which is understood that, being unable to furnish the shafts in accordance with the strict conditions of the contract, they were anxious to obtain more favorable conditions, that is such as they could fulfill. Such being also the understanding of the department, and the terms desired by the contractors being deemed inadmissible, their contracts

have been regarded as practically forfeited and void, and the orders given to invite proposals for a new contract.

Your communication above referred to, which was written while the new proposals were under consideration, states, however, that the contracts of Rice, Baird & Heebner "has not been forfeited or declared void."

If such is the fact, of course nothing remains but to dismiss the proposals that have been made under the advertisement of the 30th of September last. The impression being on my mind, however, that an insurmountable obstacle exists to the fulfilment of the contract with Rice, Baird & Heebner, and as in that case it would be necessary to take immediate action to supply the deficiency, I desire you to inform me whether they have been and are still supplying marble of the description and dimensions required, and with the punctuality which the steady progress of the work demands; and whether they are prepared to continue the supply to fulfilment of their contract. If this last question is not already determined, I desire that you will take steps to put it immediately at rest, and report the result to me.

The proposition to supply Italian marble as a substitute for that which the argument calls for is inadmissible. The schedule attached to the contract, and which passed under the dictation or approval of Congress, calls for *American* marble, and it is not unreasonable to presume that it was specially so intended.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. FLOYD,  
*Secretary of War.*

Captain M. C. MEIGS,  
*Engineer in charge Capitol Extension.*

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UNITED STATES CAPITOL EXTENSION OFFICE,  
*Washington, April 6, 1859.*

SIR: In obedience to your order of the 29th March, I have taken steps to determine whether the contractors for marble for the Capitol, Messrs Rice, Baird & Heebner, "are prepared to continue the supply" of marble "to the fulfilment of their contract."

I have addressed a letter to them,\* asking them for any evidence they may have to submit upon this subject, inasmuch as I understand that they claimed the right to fulfil it, and that the late advertisement and proposed contract were in derogation of their rights.

Before I can give an opinion upon their present prospect of fulfilling their contract, an opinion upon which, if I correctly apprehend the intention of your letter, action may be based looking to the avoidance of this contract. I think that it will be proper for me to make an inspection of the present condition of the quarry, and also to have a personal conference with the contractors, one of whom resides in Philadelphia, the other at Lee.

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\*This letter and the reply will be found among the inclosures of Captain Meigs' report of 10th May, 1859.

For this purpose I inclose for signatures, if it meets your approval, an order to visit these places.

In regard to the general subject of these contracts for marble, (for there are two with Rice, Baird & Heebner,) I respectfully desire to submit the following remarks, which may perhaps aid the department in deciding finally upon its action in regard to them.

In the first place, I have endeavored, in all my correspondence with the contractors and with the department, to make it perfectly plain that I considered the preservation of these contracts and their final fulfilment, as far as possible, to be of great importance to the United States.

No other quarry in the United States, as far as my knowledge goes, is capable of supplying a material which will match the marble of the Lee quarry of Messrs. Rice, Baird & Heebner, or which is proper to be mingled with it in completing the exterior of the Capitol extension.

They have, I believe, not only a monopoly of the marble of this quality open and worked, but they, or one of the partners, own, I have been informed, quite extensive deposits in the same neighborhood of a marble of the same geological character. Of these deposits, however, only one other is opened and worked. It furnishes the marble for the north front of the General Post Office building. Though resembling the marble of the Capitol extension, and taken from a ledge within half mile of Rice, Baird & Heebner's quarry, it does not exactly match the marble of that quarry, and I should regret to see it intermixed with that in the exterior of the building.

Should the contract of Rice, Baird & Heebner be abrogated, which can only be done by declaring it void for non fulfilment, I do not think that another contract can be made for the same marble upon as favorable terms, and I know of no quarry which will supply the proper material.

To attempt to open a quarry in a ledge of rock not yet tried, is to incur the risk of great expense, as of great disappointment.

I believe that before a quarry was found capable of supplying the north front of the General Post Office building, \$20,000 were expended by a company in explorations and in opening a quarry from which nothing was obtained.

If Messrs. Rice, Baird & Heebner are once released from the obligations of this contract, they will know that they have this monopoly, they will hold on to their quarry, and will make good terms for themselves before the United States get another cubic foot of stone from it.

These considerations alone justified the making so large a contract for marble, when the Capitol extension was begun with an appropriation of only \$100,000. It was proper, it was necessary, to bind the contractors whose marble was selected, to complete the work with the same material. Any interruption to the supply will not only cause delay to the work, but will work great injury to the contractors for marble work, Messrs. Prevost, Winter & Co. Their contract is a still larger one than that of Rice, Baird & Heebner. They employ a large number of men, who will be thrown out of employment and deprived of the means of support. Prevost, Winter & Co. will lose by the dis-

person of a number of faithful, skillful, and well-trained workmen, as well as by the delay and interruption of their business.

The amount thus far paid to Prevost, Winter & Co., under their contract, is.....	\$1,300,122 08
To Rice, Baird & Heebner .....	674,556 02
Reserved per centage on each, (\$15,000,).....	30,000 00

Making a total of..... \$2,004,678 10  
which will be some indication of the magnitude of the private interests involved.

Thus far, except in the matter of the columns, the contractors have faithfully supplied the marble, according to their contract. There have been differences and discussions, such as always arise in managing such large interests; but they deserve credit for the energy and fidelity with which they have carried out a heavy contract. A comparison with the supply of marble to any other building in this country or abroad will result greatly to their advantage. The New Orleans or the Charleston custom-houses, for example. Of the difficulties in procuring a proper supply there, the Treasury Department can advise the War Department. The material which I have seen quarried for these buildings is very inferior in beauty to that used upon the Capitol extension.

I have lately studied with great interest the history and description of the St. Isaac's Cathedral at St. Petersburg, the great national edifice of the Russian empire's Greek church, built at the capital, under the eye and the immediate supervision of the Russian Emperor, upon which have been lavished the resources of the empire for forty years. While the columns of this church are of polished red Finnish or native granite, the marble has been in great part sought abroad; part of it, at least, comes from Italy.

I find that the exterior walls, built of brick, faced with blocks of marble from two to three feet in thickness, (the very same construction adopted in the Capitol extension,) have an exterior surface of 68,000 square feet, and would therefore require, at an average thickness of two and a half feet, 170,000 cubic feet of marble.

These walls are not, as in the Capitol extension, surrounded, for a great part of their extent, to one third of their height by an arcade of solid marble.

The area of the exterior face of the walls of the Capitol extension, exclusive of the arcades, which are nearly completed, is 129,000 square feet, requiring about 300,000 cubic feet of marble to face them. More than 390,000 cubic feet of marble has been quarried, delivered, and worked in little over six years, while the Russian Empire was nineteen years in building the exterior walls of the Cathedral of St. Isaac, containing little more than one half as much of this material, marble, precious and difficult to procure.

The contractors have thus far failed to deliver the column shafts according to the terms of their contract.

For this failure, the department, rejecting their offer to substitute a still better material, and the only marble, I believe, that at any rea-



sonable price and in any reasonable time can be obtained in suitable blocks and of suitable quality, they are not blamable.

One of them attempted to procure a modification of the contract, by which he should get \$1,050 for shafts in four pieces, instead of \$1,400 for monoliths, or \$1,100 for shafts in two pieces.

To this I see very strong objections. The price is too high, as the late bidding must have convinced the department.

Moreover, the second contract with these gentlemen—that made on 30th March, 1854, under the authority of the joint resolution of Congress, of 20th February, 1854—was the result of a negotiation embracing not only the shafts, but the price of the ashlar and other marbles of the building.

One of the objects to be gained was a greater solidity for the walls by the use of heavier blocks of marble throughout their facing. Another was the increased solidity, duration, and beauty of the porticoes by the use of monolithic column shafts.

Those of the St. Isaac's church, above referred to, are monoliths, fifty-six feet in height, by seven feet in diameter.

Now, in this negotiation, the prices were fixed with a view to accomplish both objects; and the contractors, having had the benefit of the increased price for the facing, should not now be permitted to turn upon the government, decline fulfilling the contract for monoliths, and get a price nearly double that provided for the shafts in pieces by their original contract of 17th January, 1852, whereby they agreed to deliver the shafts in not more than six pieces, each at \$1 98 per cubic foot, or some five or six hundred dollars per shaft.

The agents of the United States would thus be placed in the position of having been deluded, in the first place, into increasing prices generally by the illusory promise of monolithic shafts, and then of paying the contractors nearly double the price of their first contract for columns in pieces, while gaining no corresponding advantage to the United States. For myself, I should not like to subject either myself or the department to the remarks which would certainly follow so suspicious an arrangement.

I think that justice to the United States and to the contractors requires that they be held to the fulfillment of their contract. So long as they have the order to deliver the columns according to their contract, they can make no complaint. By insisting that the marble shall actually come from the Lee quarries, which the contract of the 17th January, 1852, requires, and which condition is not changed by the supplemental contract, the United States will keep itself in the right, and will probably obtain all the marble for the building, except for the shafts. If they continue to fail in the delivery of the columns, I see no reason why the President, under the general authority which Congress has conferred upon him, in making it his duty to build the extension of the Capital, may not direct the shafts to be purchased anywhere else, or of any other suitable marble.

The United States will not violate the contract, for it offers to receive the columns of the Lee quarries; and whenever the contractors deliver a single shaft according to their contract, it should be accepted.

As at present advised, I do not believe they will deliver enough to cause any embarrassment.

I proposed to purchase the columns of the Carrara quarries of Italy, because I believe they would furnish the best material, at the cheapest rate and on the shortest time, and because I believed that under the laws and action of Congress this could be done without any violation of law or propriety. Had the contractors agreed to this before the restriction as to making purchases or contracts beyond the amount of \$2,000 was imposed upon me by the department, this arrangement, which they at first refused, and now seek, would have been made and carried out, and I am of opinion that it would have given general satisfaction. As it is, the columns for the Post Office extension were thus purchased, and I hear of no objection to their beauty, their cost, or the propriety of seeking abroad in that case, as all nations have done in erecting great public buildings, for those materials necessary for their construction or adornment which could not be obtained at home.

I proposed to accept this Italian marble from the contractors because I thought it only fair to them, saving their interest in regard to the forfeiture of \$15,000, provided in case their contract was forfeited, and because I could not attribute blame to them for not delivering marble which their quarry at that time did not seem capable of furnishing.

I think the department is in error in its opinion that the schedule of the contract passed under the dictation or approval of Congress, and that Congress specially intended the use of American marble.

If I may be permitted to refer to a political movement, this first contract was made before the American or Know Nothing party was called into existence, and before this feeling of hostility to everything not native-born had been carried to such extremes.

Congress required the contracts on the Capitol and Patent Office to be carried out literally, because they suspected fraud in their management, and not with a view to the requirement of American marble.

The joint resolution, passed 20th February, approved 1st March, 1854, gives the fullest authority to change the contract. It does not require the marble to be from Lee, or from this country. It looks only to getting the marble in larger blocks. It is in these words:

“JOINT RESOLUTION authorizing a supplemental contract for certain marble for the Capitol extension.

*“Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to cause a supplemental contract to be made with the contractors for marble for the Capitol extension, to procure the columns and ashlar in larger blocks than required by the specifications of their present contracts.”*

The negotiation of the supplemental contract was left to me, and, believing that the Lee quarry would furnish the marble, I so framed the contract. Had I thought it impossible to obtain monolithic shafts from this quarry, I should have endeavored to contract to get them elsewhere.

It may be a question whether the force of the joint resolution is exhausted by once modifying the original contract, and whether the power does not still reside in the President to again modify the contract.

I think it would be very unwise to modify it, so as to pay a higher price to the contractors than their first contract provided for pieces, or their second for monoliths; but I think it would be proper to accept the shafts of the best material in the world, as they have separately offered them at their contract price.

Of this, however, the department is the judge, and I do not wish to obtrude my opinions upon it, any further than it is necessary to relieve me from any responsibility for failing in any exertion to secure the completion of the building in a style of construction in conformity with what has already been done upon it, and which will be creditable to the nation and the age hereafter.

Of the legal right of the President to permit or to order the purchase of the columns elsewhere, without forfeiting the contract of Rice, Baird, & Heebner, provided they fail to deliver them, I have no doubt.

I do not, however, think it would be just to them to do so, when they offer a better material as a fulfilment of the intent, if not of the letter of their contract.

To declare their contract void would, I think, be to treat them with great harshness and injustice. It would throw into confusion and arrest the whole service, and would not only delay the work, but work great injury and hardship to very large interests, which should be carefully and tenderly dealt with. They are the interests of contractors and of workmen, who are citizens of the United States, who are faithfully fulfilling their duties and obligations, and who have a right to look to the government for care and protection in these interests.

The supply of marble for such a building is a serious matter. It is a great work, and one which requires knowledge and judgment in its administration. It is not like the purchase of a thousand bricks—a matter of ease and of little importance. I believe that no building in the world ever received so large a supply of so fine a marble, in six years, as has been delivered at Washington by these contractors for the Capitol extension.

I have thus trespassed upon the time and patience of the department, because it seems to me the department, from the very necessity of the case, not having that intimate knowledge of the work which I have, has not realized the magnitude of the subject with which, it seems to me, to be dealing too lightly, and without due knowledge and consideration.

My advice, thus far, has not been followed. I advised against the advertisement and bidding which it is now proposed to dismiss. I believe that another such advertisement and bidding will lead again to the large expense of advertising, and will be still less likely to bring a satisfactory result. I believe that, to annul the contract of Rice, Baird & Heebner, will be very injurious to the servite; and I desire, by every argument within my reach, to prevent the administration from doing what those responsible will, I am confident, if they live long enough, regret hereafter.

I must also, in justice to myself, say that I am confident that, had the department left me without advice or restriction, the power over these affairs which had been intrusted to me, and which I exercised for several years, the whole matter would have been arranged before this time in a manner satisfactory to all parties, except, perhaps, to a few owners or lessees of marble quarries, who are seeking to lose their money by undertaking what never has been accomplished in this country, and what I believe no deposite of marble yet explored in the United States will enable them to do.

Should the Department approve the enclosed order, I will visit the Lee quarry, consult with the contractors, and endeavor to give a distinct answer to the questions referred to me in the letter of the 29th of March.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect, your ob't serv't,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers in charge of Capitol Extension.*

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD, *Secretary of War.*

WAR DEPARTMENT, *Washington, April —, 1859.*

SIR: You will visit Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Lee, Massachusetts, to confer with the contractors for marble for the Capitol extension, and to examine the condition of their quarries.

Upon your return to this city, you will report the result to this department.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. FLOYD,

*Secretary of War,*

Captain M. C. MEIGS,

*United States Engineers, Washington.*

WAR DEPARTMENT, *April 20, 1859.*

SIR: You will visit Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Lee, Massachusetts, to confer with the contractors for marble for the Capitol extension, and to examine the condition of their quarries. You will also visit and examine the quarry of Mr. Connolly, of Maryland.

Upon your return to this City, you will report the result to this department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. FLOYD,

*Secretary of War.*

Captain M. C. MEIGS,

*Engineer in charge Capitol Extension.*

WASHINGTON, *May 6, 1859.*

DEAR SIR: Upon reflection since I saw you, I find that I have no right to make any proposition, on my own responsibility, in reference to the columns for the Capitol.

I have made arrangements with other parties for furnishing the means to carry out the contract, and do not consider myself authorized to alter my bid without first consulting them. It will be some days before they can be seen. I suppose this need not detain your report, as I can see you afterwards.

Respectfully,

JOHN F. CONNOLLY,

Captain M. C. MEIGS,  
*In charge of Capitol Extension.*

WASHINGTON, May 11, 1859.

DEAR SIR: I have advised with the other parties interested with me in my bid to furnish columns for the Capitol, and they will not consent to take less than the amount of my bid.

Yours truly,

JOHN F. CONNOLLY,

Captain M. C. MEIGS,  
*In charge of Capitol Extension.*

OFFICE OF THE CAPITOL EXTENSION,  
*Washington, May 10, 1859.*

SIR: In obedience to your orders of the 20th ultimo, I have the honor to report that I have visited Philadelphia and Lee, conferred with Messrs. Rice & Heebner, the contractors for marble for the Capitol extension, and examined their quarry at Lee, Berkshire county, Massachusetts.

I have also visited the quarry of Mr. J. F. Connolly, Baltimore county, Maryland.

I inclose copies of late correspondence with the contractors, marked, for reference, A, B, C, D, according to a list which accompanies the report.

The paper marked A explains itself.

Finding that the proper application of the sum appropriated at the last session of Congress, for the service of the Capitol extension, required some limitation of the expenditure upon the exterior, I addressed this letter to the contractors for marble. At the same time, I gave directions to confine the operations under the contract of Provost and Winter & Co., for marble work, almost entirely to the work of the arcades and of the stairways.

The letter marked C purports to be an answer by Rice, Baird, and Heebner, to my letter of 6th April, marked B. It is signed with the usual signature of the firm; but in transmitting it to the department, it is my duty to say that, while at Lee, one of the partners, Mr. Heebner, informed me that he had refused to sign such a letter, or to agree to its being sent. I have written him, (see letter marked D,) and upon receipt of his answer will forward it.

After a conference with the contractors, and a careful inspection of

their quarry, I am of opinion that they have no prospect of continuing the supply of marble to the fulfillment of their contract, so far as regards the column shafts.

I am further of opinion that they could not, in any reasonable time, supply from their Lee quarry the column shafts, even in six pieces, in addition to the large quantity of marble in large blocks yet needed under the contract for architraves, cornice, pedestals, under-columns, and for other parts of the porticoes and steps. If the column shafts, however, are obtained elsewhere, I am of opinion that they will be able, in other respects, to complete their contract, in performing which, thus far, they have shown energy and ability; and in this connection, I respectfully refer to my letter to the department of 6th April.

They offered to supply Italian marble column shafts, as a fulfillment of the contract in spirit, if not in letter; but the contract of 17th January, 1852, providing that the marble shall be "American marble of the best quality," and also, that it is "to be procured from the quarries near Lee, in the State of Massachusetts." I understand that it has been decided by the department that Italian marble would not fulfill the contract.

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I found at Mr. Connolly's quarry a large bed of marble, of the quality known as the Baltimore small crystal marble. One of those tested by the commission on building materials in 1851, and described in their report to the Secretary of the Interior of 22d December, 1851.

The east and west fronts of the post office extension are constructed of marble from this quarry, and from them its appearance in a building can be known.

It is a strong and, I believe, a durable stone. It does not come up to the requirements of the advertisement of 30th September last in color and grain. In composition, however, it is similar to the Lee marble.

I found four columns shafts quarried; and from the appearance of the quarry I think that it is capable of supplying one hundred blocks of sufficient size for monolithic column shafts.

This is a result which I did not expect, and only regret that the stone is not of such beauty as to enable me heartily to recommend its adoption.

If it is determined, however, to use only native American marble, it is not probable that any better will be found, or any quarry capable of supplying one hundred large shafts so quickly.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers in charge of Capitol Extension.*

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,

*Secretary of War.*

*List of letters of which copies are herewith.*

- A. Captain Meigs to Rice, Baird & Heebner, March 23, 1859, suspending order for marble, with certain exceptions.
- B. Same to same of 6th of April, communicating instructions of Secretary of War, and asking them to make their own statement.
- C. Reply signed Rice, Baird & Heebner, not dated; received 22d April.
- D. Captain Meigs to Charles Heebner, 10th May, 1859.

*Copies of indorsements upon preceding report.*

WAR DEPARTMENT, May 11, 1859.

The contract with Rice, Heebner & Baird, for the column shafts of the Capitol extension, will be declared forfeited, and Captain Meigs will contract with Mr. Connolly for monolithic columns of his marble.

J. B. FLOYD, *Secretary of War.*

Captain MEIGS.

May 19, 1859.

Let the order of the Secretary of War, of the 11th instant, be suspended for further consideration after his return from Virginia.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

Captain MEIGS.

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A.

March 23, 1859.

DEAR SIRs: The appropriation for the Capitol extension this year is less than usual, and it becomes necessary to limit the orders for material and workmanship.

The marble work for the exterior will be confined to the arcades under columns of porticoes, and I have, therefore, to suspend all orders for marble excepting for these arcades.

The payment for the marble still to be delivered for this purpose, and the work to be put upon these arcades, will absorb all the money which can be spared from other necessary work.

No stone not included in this description will be measured or paid for.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers in Charge.*

MESSRS. RICE, BAIRD, & HEEBNER,

*Contractors for marble for Capitol Extension, Philadelphia, Pa.*

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B.

UNITED STATES CAPITOL EXTENSION OFFICE,

*Washington, April 6, 1859.*

SIRs: The Secretary of War informs me, in a letter of the date of 29th March, that he has the impression that an insurmountable obstacle exists as to the fulfillment of the contract with Rice, Baird &

Heebner, and "that, as in that case, it would be necessary to take immediate action to supply the deficiency." "He desires me to inform him, whether they have been, and are still, supplying marble of the description and dimensions required, and with the punctuality which the steady progress of the work demands; and whether they are prepared to continue the supply to the fulfillment of their contract."

If this last question is not already determined, he desires me to "take steps to put it immediately at rest, and report the result to him."

He says the "proposition to supply Italian marble as a substitute for that which the agreement calls for, is inadmissible. The schedule attached to the contract, and which passed under the dictation or approval of Congress, calls for American marble, and it is not unreasonable to presume that it was specially so intended."

In order to enable me to set the question at rest, I think it proper to communicate the above directions of the Secretary, that you may have the opportunity to furnish me with any information or evidence which you may think important to the formation of a correct opinion upon the subject.

Are you prepared to fulfill your contract? If so, what evidence can you furnish to be laid before the department?

The whole sum paid to you on account of your two contracts for marble for the Capitol extension from the beginning of the work to this date, appears, from the books of this office, to be \$674,556 02.

In answering a question looking apparently to some decisive action in regard to a contract of such importance, I desire to have all the information which you can supply on the subject.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers in charge.*

MESSRS. RICE, BAIRD & HEEBNER,  
*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*

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C.

PHILADELPHIA, *April 1859.*

DEAR SIR: We have your communication of the 6th, and have duly considered its contents, and have to say in reply, that taken in connection with yours of the 23d ultimo, we are somewhat in doubt as to its true purport.

In the latter communication you say that in consequence of the deficiency in the appropriation for the Capitol extension, the marble work for the exterior will be confined to the arcades under columns of porticoes, and have therefore to suspend all orders for marble, excepting for the arcades; "no stone not included in this description will be measured or paid for."

In your communication of the 6th, after presenting certain instructions given you by the Secretary of War, you present the following questions: "Are you prepared to fulfill your contract?" "If so, what evidence can you furnish to be presented to the Department?"



If you mean to inquire whether we can comply with your order of the 23d ultimo, which suspended our contract, and our operations except for marble for the "arcades under portico columns," we have no hesitation in saying that we can fill that part of our contract in sixty days time, and the evidence we will give the Department must be our former good faith in meeting our engagements, and the actual delivery of the material.

On the other hand, if you mean to inquire whether we could, and would go on to fill the remainder of our contract, were you to revoke your order of the 23d, notifying us to suspend operations except as already stated, we have to say that we are ready to proceed promptly to the fulfillment of our contract, and every feature of it. We do not pretend that we can furnish the columns in single blocks, but our contract does not require this. In case of a failure in the quarry to furnish stone large enough for single blocks, it provides that they shall be furnished in two pieces.

This latter condition we believe we can fill, and shall proceed to do so on the revocation of your order of the 23d; or, if more agreeable to the department, we would prefer to furnish them in blocks of four pieces, at a much reduced price, which we think would be the true policy of the government, as it would reduce the cost of the work without injury to its appearance, and, at the same time expedite its completion, as we can furnish the columns in four blocks in much less time than we can in two blocks.

Uniting with the Secretary of War, and yourself, in the expression of an anxious desire for speedy completion of the Capitol, and the distinct settlement of all differences of opinion,

We remain your obedient servants,

RICE, BAIRD & HEEBNER.

in M. C. MEIGS,

*Engineer in charge Capitol Extension, &c.*

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D.

WASHINGTON, *May 10, 1859.*

DEAR SIR: I inclose a copy of a letter, without date, but received on 22d April, 1859, signed Rice, Baird & Heebner.

In speaking of this letter to you when at Lee you informed that you had objected to its being sent as the answer to mine of 6th instant, that you did not concur in it, but refused to sign it.

With this knowledge it would be improper in me to transmit it to the Secretary as the answer of the contractors on so important a question. I therefore submit it to you, and ask a statement in writing as to your concurrence or non-concurrence.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant.

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers in charge.*

CHARLES HEEBNER, Esq.,

*Lee, Massachusetts.*

OFFICE OF THE U. S. CAPITOL EXTENSION,  
*Washington, May 14, 1859.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, yesterday, of your order of the 11th instant, declaring the contract of Rice, Baird & Heebner, for column shafts of the Capitol extension, forfeited, and directing that a contract shall be made with Mr. Connolly for monolithic column shafts.

As this forfeiture of the contract of Messrs. Rice, Baird & Heebner is positive, and is against the advice which I have had to give, I have not ventured to delay the transmission of your order to them, but have, by to-day's mail, sent them a copy of it.

Their contract includes all the marble for the exterior of the building—both columns, architraves, cornice, pedestals, ashlar, arcades, and steps, and in forfeiting it the supply of marble is, of course, arrested, and the work must stop as soon as what is on hand is worked up.

The marble for the exterior, as well as for the column shafts, should, therefore, be provided from some other source as soon as possible.

As I am not informed upon what terms you propose to contract with Mr. Connolly for the monolithic column shafts, I respectfully request instructions before preparing a contract for your acceptance.

I understand your letter of 29th March to decide that the bidding under the advertisement of 30th September, 1859, was dismissed, inasmuch as, at the time the bids were opened, Rice, Baird & Heebner's contract was not forfeited.

The papers relating to the bidding are at the War Department, and I am not certain what was Mr. Connolly's bid. If I remember it correctly it was \$1,550 for each shaft, \$15,000 more for the whole number of one hundred than the contract of Rice, Baird & Heebner, and than Mr. Heebner's offer for Italian marble.

After examining the quarry of Mr. Connolly, I am of opinion that he ought, at this price, (which will be \$155,000 for the whole contract,) to make out of it, with reasonable management and good fortune, not less than \$75,000.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers in charge.*

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,

*Secretary of War.*

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CAPITOL EXTENSION OFFICE,

*Washington, May 14, 1859.*

GENTLEMEN: The Secretary of War has issued the following order received by me yesterday.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers, in charge.*

MESSRS. RICE, BAIRD & HEEBNER,

*Contractors for marble for Capitol Extension, Philadelphia.*

WAR DEPARTMENT, *May 11, 1859.*

The contract with Rice, Heebner & Baird, for the column shafts of the Capitol extension, will be declared forfeited, and Captain Meigs will contract with Mr. Connolly for monolithic columns of his marble.

J. B. FLOYD,  
*Secretary of War.*

Captain MEIGS.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *May 17, 1859.*

SIR: Please transmit to me, as soon as possible this morning, your report of the 10th instant, respecting the column shafts of the Capitol extension, together with a statement of Mr. J. F. Connolly's bid, and the prices to be paid under the contract with Rice, Heebner & Baird.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. R. DRINKARD,  
*Acting Secretary of War.*

Captain M. C. MEIGS,  
*Engineer, in charge Capitol Extension.*

OFFICE OF THE CAPITOL EXTENSION,  
*Washington, May 17, 1859.*

SIR: In the absence of Captain Meigs, (who has the originals in his possession,) I inclose herewith copies of his report of the 10th instant, respecting the column shafts of the Capitol extension, and of the inclosures, in obedience to the request contained in your communication of this date.

The offer of J. F. Connolly is to furnish these columns at \$1,550 each, as will be seen by reference to the papers accompanying Captain Meigs's report of the 18th of December last.

The inclosed extract from the supplemental contract with Rice, Baird & Heebner, gives the prices to be paid under the agreement with said firm.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Z. W. DENHAM.

Colonel W. R. DRINKARD,  
*Acting Secretary of War.*

*Extracts from supplemental contracts with Rice, Baird & Heebner to furnish marble for the Capitol extension.—(See Ex. Doc. No. 143, 1st sess., 34th Congress, page 114, third paragraph.)*

“The party of the first part, in consideration of the premises, agrees to pay the parties of the second part at the rate of one dollar and ninety-eight cents per cubic foot for all the blocks of marble for the

exterior which exceed eighteen inches bed, and at the rate of fourteen hundred dollars for each monolithic column shaft for the exterior porticos, and eleven hundred dollars for each shaft delivered in two pieces, as above specified, for the columns of the same."

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MAY 18, 1859.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose the reply of Mr. Charles Heebner, one of the contractors for marble for the Capitol extension, to my letter of the 10th instant, of which last letter a copy was submitted with my report upon a visit to marble quarries, under date of May 10.

Mr. Heebner repeats his disclaimer of the letter signed Rice, Baird & Heebner, without date, but purporting to be their reply to my communication of the 6th of April.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers, in charge Capitol Extension.*

HON. JOHN B. FLOYD,

*Secretary of War.*

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LEE, May 16, 1859.

DEAR SIR: Your favor of the 10th is before me, inclosing a copy of a letter from Rice, Baird & Heebner. It is the same letter Mr. Rice submitted to me, and I objected to its being sent. He agreed not to send it. If you wish I will name my objections. When you spoke of it at Lee, I thought it was not the same, as we had agreed not to forward it.

Yours, truly,

CHARLES HEEBNER.

M. C. MEIGS, *Captain of Engineers,*

*In charge of U. S. Capitol Extension, Washington.*

P. S.—We will get the columns in four pieces if you will give us the price asked.

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WASHINGTON, May 19, 1859.

SIRS: The order of the Secretary of War of the 11th instant, in relation to your contract for marble, of which a copy was communicated to you in my letter of the 14th instant, has been suspended for further consideration.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers, in charge.*

MESSRS. RICE, BAIRD & HEEBNER, *Philadelphia.*

WAR DEPARTMENT, *May 21, 1859.*

SIR: You will proceed to visit the marble quarries from which, under the advertisement of the 30th of September last, propositions are made for supplying marble for the column shafts of the Capitol extension.

Upon your return to this city you will report the result of your examination to this department.

The inclosed list of bidders will assist you in this examination; but should you have reason to think it proper to examine other quarries you will not confine yourself to this list. The object being to obtain the fullest information before deciding upon the questions relating to the supply of marble for the columns.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. R. DRINKARD,  
*Acting Secretary of War.*

Captain M. C. MEIGS,  
*Engineer in charge Capitol Extension.*

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PHILADELPHIA, *May 28, 1859.*

DEAR SIR: In reply to your communication of the 14th instant, we beg leave to enter our protest against the order annulling our contract for furnishing marble to the Capitol extension.

We admit that our quarry at Lee will not furnish the monolithic shaft in accordance with the specifications of our supplemental contract. This is no fault of ours. At the time we made the contract to furnish the shafts you believed, and so reported, that the quarry would furnish them; we also were of the same opinion. Nature, however, has not supported these conclusions. We are still of the opinion, notwithstanding you may differ with us, that we can furnish them easily in four pieces. Believing, for some time past, they could be so ordered we did not think it necessary to propose any other course.

If you decide not to have them except in monolithic shafts, we respectfully ask permission to furnish them from any other quarry or quarries, upon the same terms and prices as specified in our supplemental contract, to be equal in quality and appearance to the marble now in the Capitol extension, and to be approved by the engineer in charge of the work.

We have been engaged in furnishing marble to the Capitol extension, under our contract, for about seven years. You, sir, can testify with what promptness and fidelity on the part of our firm.

Hoping you will accede to our request, we remain your obedient servants,

JOHN RICE.  
CHAS. HEEBNER.

Capt. M. C. MEIGS,  
*Engineer in charge Capitol Extension.*  
LEE, *May 30, 1859.*

UNITED STATES CAPITOL EXTENSION OFFICE,  
*Washington, June 3, 1859.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that, in obedience to your order of the 21st ultimo, I have visited the following marble quarries:

1. Wilson's & Crommelin's quarry, South Down, Dutchess county, New York.
2. Canaan Marble Company's quarry, Canaan, Connecticut.
3. Rice, Baird & Heebner's, Lee, Massachusetts.
4. Clark & Folsom, East Dorset, Vermont.
5. Holly, Fields & Rent, East Dorset, Vermont.
6. Friedly & Co., East Dorset, Vermont.
7. Thomas Symington, Danby, Vermont.
8. W. Kelly, Danby, Vermont.
9. Sherman, Holly & Adams.
10. Rutland Marble Company, (Baxter's.)
11. Sheldon & Slasem's.

And several others, all at West Rutland, Vermont.

The necessity of my presence in Washington at this time, to attend to the heavy disbursements on account of pay rolls and contracts falling due in the first days of June, compelled me to return without visiting three of the quarries from which offers were made to supply the columns for the Capitol extension.

They are those of Alexander Maxwell & Co., at Tuckahoe, and at Searsdale, New York, and Thomas Symington's Baltimore county quarry, Maryland.

I propose to visit them in a few days, as soon as the business requiring my presence here is completed, and will then be able to make a full report.

I can only say, at present, that the examination thus far made has satisfied me that it is possible for several of these quarries, as now opened, to procure blocks of marble of sufficient size for monolithic shafts for the columns of the Capitol extension.

The quality, however, is as various as the price demanded, which varies from \$3,282 to \$1,100 each, per monolith.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain and Engineer in Charge.*

Hon. W. R. DRINKARD,  
*Acting Secretary of War.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., *June 7, 1859.*

We, the undersigned, propose to contract with the United States for the furnishing of one hundred shafts, including the upper torus of the base; each shaft to be twenty-five feet two and an eighth inches in height from the bottom of said torus to the top of the upper astragal, and to be of such diameter as to make, when finished, the torus or bottom piece of shafts to be three feet seven and five eighths inches, the diameter of the shaft above the base to be three feet, and at the niche

below the capital two feet six and an eighth inches, and the diameter of the upper astragal to be two feet eleven and seven-eighths inches, for the following prices: For shafts in single blocks, according to specifications, for eleven hundred and seventy-five dollars per shaft; or, in two pieces, eleven hundred dollars, and, in four pieces, one thousand dollars per shaft. The stone to be furnished from W. Robinson's quarries in Baltimore county, Maryland.

Yours, respectfully,

P. CROWLEY,  
F. C. CROWLEY.

Captain M. C. MEIGS, *United States Engineers.*

EAST DORSET, VERMONT, *June 7, 1859.*

DEAR SIR: Since your visit here we have decided to submit to the government, through you, a proposition to furnish the blocks for the columns for the Capitol.

You are well acquainted with the quality of our marble, its strength and durability; you also know where it is, and something of the expense of quarrying and delivery in Washington, and you also are fully aware of the difference in value between such marble and the limestone offered by the Maryland party.

Our proposition is this: First, we do not wish to promise the columns in one piece, and propose to deliver them on these terms: For one hundred columns, (size named,) to be in two or three blocks each, delivered in Washington, one hundred and forty-five thousand dollars, (\$145,000,) which is ten thousand dollars less than the limestone bid.

In this offer, we wish to reserve the right to deliver the same in one piece, each column, for one hundred and fifty-five thousand dollars, provided on quarrying we find we can do so with ease.

Should you see fit to decline our proposition, and are inclined to quarry the blocks yourself in our present opening, or make a new opening in the same quarry, we shall be happy to correspond with you on a proposition by you of this kind.

Please write us immediately on receipt of this, and send us a drawing of one of the columns, and also state your views of our proposal. Should there be a fair prospect of a contract between us, we will come on at once, with the necessary bonds for the performance of the contract.

I found it impossible for me to leave this week, and so write.

Very truly, yours,

HOLLY, FIELDS & KENT,  
*East Dorset, Vermont.*

Captain M. C. MEIGS.

WASHINGTON, *June 9, 1859.*

DEAR SIRS: Your letter of the 7th is received. It is impossible for me to give you a definite answer at this time.

Mis. Doc. 29—9

The matter is under advisement at the War Department, and with the President.

I have a good specimen of your marble, and should be pleased to receive such a proposition as would insure its being used; that is, a proposition at low rates which should decidedly rule out those for a material not quite so good.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers.*

HOLLEY, FIELDS & KENT,  
*East Dorset, Vermont.*

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FULTON, OSWEGO COUNTY, NEW YORK,  
*June 7, 1859.*

DEAR SIR: When at Washington, last November, I proposed, under your advertisement, dated September 30, 1858, for the furnishing of one hundred marble shafts for the extension of the Capitol. I have not seen anything in the public prints in relation to that letting. Has the contract been let? If not yet disposed of on receipt of this, please address me, at the Astor House, and much oblige,

Yours, truly,

H. H. COOTS.

M. C. MEIGS.

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CAPITOL EXTENSION,  
*Washington, June 9, 1859.*

DEAR SIR: Your letter is received to-day. I expect to be in New York on Monday next, and will be pleased to see you, at the Metropolitan, after sunset.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers, in charge.*

H. H. COOTS, Esq.,  
*Astor House, New York.*

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *June 10, 1859.*

DEAR SIR: This letter came to me while absent, and now, on my return, I inclose it to you, that you may give the writer the information required, if consistent with your duties. The marble mentioned is similar to that used for the columns, &c., of the Girard College.

Yours, truly,

A. B. YOUNG.

Captain M. C. MEIGS.



SOUTH EGREMONT, *June 7, 1859.*

DEAR SIR: I take the liberty to write a few lines to you, sir, respecting the columns for the Capitol extension.

Will you please inform me whether the contract has been made for the marble for the *columns*? If not, whether it is too late to make an offer to furnish them? and if not, whether the kind of marble which I furnished for the Boston custom-house would be such as would suit? An answer to the above will much oblige your humble servant.

CHESTER GOODALL.

A. B. YOUNG, Esq.

THURSDAY MORNING, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  O'CLOCK,  
*June 16, 1859.*

DEAR SIR: I called last evening and again this morning at your hotel, and regretting I did not find you in, I leave this note. I have examined the quarries in Massachusetts and Vermont. I found but one quarry, and that in Vermont, from which I thought the columns could be obtained whole. They can be obtained in blocks either in Massachusetts or Vermont, and perhaps on the Harlem railroad. A Mr. Niltern, in case he gets the contract, claims to have the refusal of the last mentioned quarry. I represent the bid of H. G. Beach—whole columns, \$2,500; in blocks, \$1,250. If the contract is not disposed of, please write me at Fulton, Oswego county, New York. I leave for home this morning at ten.

Respectfully, yours,

H. H. COATS.

Captain M. C. MEIGS.

FACTORY POINT, VERMONT,  
*June 17, 1859.*

SIR: Hearing that you were in pursuit of marble for columns to the United States Capitol, I take the liberty to say that I have a quarry of the same quality of the Holly, Fields & Kent quarry; that I am confident they can be obtained from, being well acquainted with both quarries, and in fact opening both, as I was one of the owners that sold to Messrs. Holly, Fields & Kent. The object of this communication is to inform you of the fact, hoping to hear from you at once.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

SAMUEL FOLSOM.

M. C. MEIGS, Esq.

OFFICE OF THE CAPITOL EXTENSION,  
*Washington, June 22, 1859.*

SIR: In obedience to the orders of the department under date of 21st May, to visit the marble quarries from which propositions had

been made for supplying marble for the column shafts of the Capitol extension, and any other quarries which, in this connection, I might think it proper to examine, I have visited the following quarries:

- 1st. Connolly's, near Texas, Baltimore county, Maryland.
- 2d. Robinson's, near Texas, about one mile from Connolly's.
- 3d. Prestons, or Wilson & Crommelin's, South Dover, Dutchess county, New York.
- 4th. Canaan Marble Company's, or W. G. Chane's quarry, at Canaan, Connecticut.
- 5th. Rice, Baird & Heebner's quarry, at Lee, Massachusetts.
- 6th. Clark & Folsom's quarry, on Dorset mountain, Vermont.
- 7th. Holly, Fields & Kent's quarry, also on Dorset mountain, Vermont.
- 8th. Friedly's quarry, same mountain.
- 9th. Symington's quarry, Danby mountain, Vermont.
- 10th. Kelly's quarry, adjoining Symington's.
- 11th. The Rutland Marble Company's, or Baxter's quarry, Rutland, Vermont.
- 12th. Sheldons & Slasern's quarry, Vermont.
- 13th. Sherman's, Holly & Adam's quarry, and some others, located in this Rutland deposit of marble.
- 14th. Hall, Masterton & Morgan's quarry, at Tuckahoe, Westchester county, New York.
- 15th. A. Maxwell & Co.'s quarry, East Chester, adjoining the above.
- 16th. A. Maxwell & Co.'s quarry, at Searsdale, Westchester county, New York.
- 17th. W. H. Clarke's quarry, at Falls village, Connecticut.

These are all the quarries which have been presented to me by their owners or others as able to supply the material for the columns of the Capitol extension porticoes.

They may be divided into two classes: the magnesian limestones or dolomites, and those composed of carbonate of lime.

The marble of the first—the quarries of magnesian limestone or dolomites—resemble, in chemical composition, the marble of the Lee quarries now used for the Capitol extension, but vary in texture, grain or crystallization, in hardness and in beauty.

None of the quarries above specified contain a material equal in beauty to the Lee marble.

They are inferior in closeness and fineness of texture and crystallization, are more liable to blemishes destructive of the beauty of the stone in large masses, and do not promise as great durability.

Connolly's quarry at Texas, Baltimore county, Maryland, supplies a stone of much coarser grain than the Lee marble, and the large blocks are apt to be disfigured by veins of a dirty grey color, containing mica, which, judging from observation of marble exposed in buildings, are liable to decay, and which in damp weather becomes offensive to the eye, being much more conspicuous in such weather than when the surface of the stone is dry.

The quarry, as now opened, shows a large deposit of this material, from which there would be little difficulty, I think, in obtaining the

whole number of column shafts needed in single blocks. His price is \$1,550 for each shaft.

I wish the material was more beautiful; as it is, I should regret to see it used in the porticoes of the Capitol, believing that the columns are intended as ornaments, and that they ought to be perfect.

Mr. Robinson's quarry is of the coarse-grained limestone of the Patent Office. Overlying this, however, the dolomite, similar to Connolly's, crops out in one corner of the quarry, and excavations at several points, through the superincumbent mass of earth, have reached the dolomite, and give reason to believe that a large deposit exists.

Messrs. Crowley, in a letter which is with this report, offer to furnish the monolithic shafts from this deposit at \$1,175 each.

The deposit from which they offer them has not yet been opened so as to enable me to speak with confidence as to its extent or its capacity to supply the shafts. Judging from its situation near Mr. Connolly's, however, I think it probable that it may afford, when opened, the same facilities as his. The stone will be liable to the same objection.

Until further explored, I do not think it would be prudent to rely upon Mr. Robinson's bed of marble for the columns, even were the material more beautiful.

The Dover quarry is in an immense deposit of dolomite. The specimen in the office furnished with the bid of Wilson & Crommelins is very satisfactory in appearance, and the quarry appears to be capable of supplying blocks large enough and in sufficient number. But in the quarry the stone appears to be striated, and I doubt whether blocks of pure and uniform color could be obtained.

There is a doubt also as to the strength and durability of this stone.

As the price asked for it, however, is very high, \$3,050 for each shaft, I do not think it necessary to pursue the investigation as to its quality further.

The Canaan Marble Company's price is \$3,282 for each monolithic shaft.

After an examination of that quarry, I do not think they could supply them either in size or of good quality.

Rice, Baird & Heebner's quarry, Lee. This is the quarry of the contractors. The material is satisfactory, being inferior only to the Italian marble; but they themselves say the quarry will not supply the monoliths, and I agree in their opinion.

A. Maxwell & Co.'s quarries, at East Chester, Tuckahoe, and Searsdale, New York. They offer the marble only in pieces, and do not pretend to be able to furnish monoliths. The marble is liable to the same objection as Connolly's and other dolomites.

Wilson H. Clark's quarry, at Falls village, Connecticut, on the Housatonic. No quarry has been opened here. A large deposit of magnesian limestone is exposed on the side of a hill; but the surface indications are not such as to induce me to hope for large blocks of a good quality of marble.

These are all the dolomite quarries which I have visited.

There are extensive beds of it in the neighborhood of Texas, Baltimore county, Maryland, in West Chester and Dutchess counties, New

York, in Western Connecticut and Massachusetts, and I believe, also, in Vermont. I have visited the principal openings, and have also visited several places in which the stone, though not worked, is exposed, in the neighborhood of Lee and Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

About Lee the material appears to be finer in grain and quality than elsewhere; but the difficulty there is to find a deposit capable of furnishing blocks large enough for the purpose.

The other class of marbles (those composed principally of carbonate of lime crystallized) are rarely found in this country of pure white color in large masses, and the greater part of them are disfigured by veins nearly parallel, of a material whose color is not bright and fresh like the bluish grey veins of Italian marble.

The most extensive quarries are at West Rutland, Vermont.

The marble is in highly inclined beds of nearly uniform thickness throughout the deposit, which is extensively explored and worked; and from the thickest bed of what is called white or statuary marble, the shafts might be obtained free from all defects, except a single vein of a disagreeable slaty grey color.

The material, however, is soft, and I do not think would prove durable.

Moreover, the price at which it sells at the quarries is too high to make it available for the purposes of the Capitol extension.

Clark & Folsoms quarry, on Dorset mountain, is in a heavy deposit of marble. I do not think that it is capable of supplying monoliths. I inclose a letter, however, which I have received from the proprietor.

Holly, Fields & Kent's quarry, also on Dorset mountains, I think, would afford blocks of sufficient size for monoliths.

The material is, upon the whole, the best I have yet seen for this purpose from any American quarry. It is not a white marble one, but variegated with veins of blue, agreeable in color and arrangement, and giving it such a resemblance to veined Italian marble that it is known as the Vermont Italian marble quarry.

I inclose a letter from the proprietors, who appear to fear the responsibility of undertaking to deliver the whole of the shafts in monoliths, but who are willing to negotiate in regard to them.

Friedley's quarry, in the same mountain, will afford monoliths, though their extraction would be expensive, as the beds of stone which would furnish them are at the base of a vertical bluff of marble, of inferior quality, some sixty or eighty feet high; and the mode of quarrying is to run shafts or drifts into the mountain, on top of the valuable beds of marble, in order to get at them.

I have no offer from this quarry.

Symington's quarry, on Danby mountain, may, perhaps, be able to supply the material. Mr. Symington offers twenty monoliths, as will be seen by reference to his bid, with the joint above the fillet, at \$1,400 each.

The material is not so good as Holly, Fields & Kent's, and probably not so good as Friedley's.

Kelly's quarry adjoins Symington's. I think the layers of stone are too much cut up to furnish monoliths.

None of the quarries which I have seen afford so good a material as

the Carrara marble, and from none, except Connolly's, could the number of columns be obtained so quickly as from Carrara. Understanding, however, that the department is decided upon excluding Italian marble, and prefers a native material, even though inferior and more costly, I should place the quarries which I have visited in the following order, considering the nature of the material and the probability of success in the endeavor to procure the columns from them, and without reference to cost, which cannot at present be ascertained.

Not having authority to conclude a bargain, I have not found it possible to negotiate.

1st. Holly, Field & Kent's, Dorset mountain, Vermont.

2d. Friedley's.

3d. Rutland, though of its durability I am doubtful.

4th. Connolly's, Baltimore county, Maryland.

5th. Wilson & Crommelin's, South Dover, New York.

6th. Symington's quarry, Danby mountain, Vermont.

7th. Robinson's, (Crowley's proposal,) Baltimore county, Maryland.

The other quarries which I have visited, I think, could not be relied upon.

The unexplored deposits in western Massachusetts, Connecticut, and in southeastern New York, may afford better quarries than any I have seen. But there is no business more uncertain than marble quarrying, and the temptation to explore newly-discovered veins is counteracted by the heavy losses known to be incident to such operations.

Enough is known, however, to show that it is possible to obtain from several American quarries monolithic shafts which can be used for the Capitol extension, though inferior in beauty to the Italian.

Since I have been making these examinations, I have received a letter from the contractors, Messrs. Rice, Baird & Heebner, in which they ask to be allowed to furnish the column-shafts according to the terms of their contract, substituting, however, marble from some other quarry or quarries for that of Lee—the marble to be furnished to be approved by the officer in charge of the Capitol extension.

I had, before receiving this letter, which is inclosed, concluded to advise the department to notify the contractors that an examination of the American quarries had shown that several of them were capable of supplying the monolithic shafts, of a material which, under the circumstances, the department would be willing to use, and to call upon them to make arrangements for supplying them from some of these quarries, or any others which they might discover and which were of equally good quality.

Having received this proposition, I advise that they be notified that it is accepted, and that six months will be allowed them within which to furnish a satisfactory specimen, with probable evidence that the quarry will supply the one hundred monolithic shafts, of quality equal to the approved specimen, and in a reasonable time.

I inclose several letters relating to this subject, according to the accompanying list.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Capt. of Eng'rs in charge of Capitol Extension.*

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,

*Secretary of War.*

*List of letters herewith.*

P. & F. C. Crowley's proposal, June 7, 1859.

Holly, Fields & Kent's proposal, June 7, 1859.

Samuel Folsom, June 17, 1859, calling attention to a quarry from which he is confident the marble for the columns of the Capitol extension can be obtained.

Rice, Baird & Heebner's proposal, May 28, 1859, to furnish the columns from some American quarry.

H. H. Coats, June 16, 1859, in reference to the capability of quarries for supplying marble for columns.

The preceding report and inclosures were returned with an indorsement, of which the following is a copy:

WAR DEPARTMENT, *June 29, 1859.*

The recommendation of the engineer in charge is approved.

JOHN B. FLOYD,

*Secretary of War.*

UNITED STATES CAPITOL EXTENSION OFFICE,

*Washington, June 30, 1859,*

DEAR SIR: The Secretary of War has returned to this office, with the following indorsement, a report which I submitted to him on the 22d instant:

“WAR DEPARTMENT, *June 29, 1859.*

“The recommendation of the engineer in charge is approved.

“JOHN B. FLOYD,

*“Secretary of War.”*”

Below you have a copy of the recommendation referred to:

[Extract.]

“Enough is known, however, to show that it is possible to obtain from several American quarries monolithic shafts which can be used for the Capitol extension, though inferior in beauty to the Italian.

“Since I have been making these examinations, I have received a letter from the contractors, Messrs. Rice & Heebner, in which they ask

to be allowed to furnish the column shafts according to the terms of their contract, substituting, however, marble from some other quarry or quarries for that of Lee, the marble to be furnished to be approved by the officer in charge of the Capitol extension.

"I had before receiving this letter, which is inclosed, concluded to advise the department to notify the contractors that an examination of the American quarries had shown that several of them were capable of supplying the monolithic shafts of a material which, under the circumstances, the department would be willing to use, and to call upon them to make arrangements for supplying them from some of these quarries, or any others which they might discover, and which were of equal good quality.

"Having received this proposition, I advise that they be notified that it is accepted, and that six months will be allowed them within which to furnish a satisfactory specimen, with probable evidence that the quarry will supply the one hundred monolithic shafts, of quality equal to the approved specimen, and in a reasonable time."

The indorsement of the Secretary approving this recommendation is to be considered as revoking the order to declare your contract forfeited.

You are hereby, by direction of the Secretary of War, notified that your proposition of 28th May, in these words: "We respectfully ask permission to furnish them from any other quarry or quarries, upon the same terms and prices as specified in our supplemental contract, to be equal in quality and appearance to the marble now in the Capitol extension, and to be approved by the engineer in charge of the work," is accepted, and that six months from the 1st of July, 1859, will be allowed you within which to furnish a satisfactory specimen of American marble for the purpose, with probable evidence that the quarry will supply the one hundred monolithic shafts of quality equal to the approved specimen, and in a reasonable time.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers in charge of Capitol Extension.*

MESSRS. RICE, BAIRD & HEEBNER,

*Contractors, Philadelphia, Pa.*

WASHINGTON, June 27, 1859.

DEAR SIR: Messrs. Holly, Fields & Kent, of East Dorset, Vermont, wish me to learn from you whether the informality of their proposal for marble columns for the Capitol will exclude them from competition, as they would like, if it is not too late, to make another proposition.

Yours, respectfully,

E. P. HUDSON,  
*Willards' Hotel.*

Captain MEIGS,  
*Superintendent Capitol Extension.*

OFFICE OF THE CAPITOL EXTENSION,  
*Washington, June 27, 1859.*

DEAR SIR: In reply to your note of this date, I have to inform you that the proposal of Messrs. Holly, Fields & Kent for the marble shafts for the Capitol extension, has been submitted to the War Department, which has the subject yet under consideration.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain of Engineers in charge.*

E. P. HUDSON, Esq.,  
*Willards' Hotel, Washington, D. C.*

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WEST RUTLAND, *June 29, 1859.*

DEAR SIR: We should like to make the effort to get you the 104 columns for the Capitol at Washington, or call your attention to our quarry located at West Rutland.

We have a class of marble we think will be what you want, from the information we have received from those who have conversed with you on this subject. Our marble is very compact, and strong, and hard. You can carve it very nicely, and will take a fine polish.

The strong reasons we have that we can furnish the columns are, that our layers of marble in our quarry is standing perpendicular, also the grain of the marble. We can break blocks of most any thickness and width. The cuts in the layers running with the grain of the marble are of sufficient distance apart to give the length of the column, which, we understand, you want twenty-four feet one inch long, three feet seven inches at the base.

The style of shading (the ground of the marble being white) is very much admired.

We should like to send you some samples; also to have you visit our quarry. We have not worked our quarry but a short time, but at the depth we are now quarrying marble, no marble quarries in Rutland produce so sound a marble.

Will you please let us hear from you on the subject at your earliest convenience.

FARRAND PARKER,  
*Agent for the Vermont Marble Company.*

Captain MEIGS.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES' CAPITOL EXTENSION,  
*Washington, July 2, 1859.*

DEAR SIR: Your letter of the 29th ultimo is received. The contractors, Messrs. Rice, Baird & Heebner, have been notified that they will be allowed six months within which to furnish a satisfactory specimen of the marble which they propose to supply for the columns of the Capitol extension, in place of the Lee marble at first intended to be used.



I have sent them a copy of your letter, and suggest that you enter into correspondence with them upon this subject.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain of Engineers, in charge.*

F. PARKER, Esq.,  
*Agent of Vermont Marble Co., West Rutland, Vt.*

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL EXTENSION,  
*Washington, July 2, 1859.*

DEAR SIR: I inclose copies of letters from Holly, Fields & Kent, and from the agent of the Vermont Marble Company, which will no doubt be of interest to you in view of the decision of the Secretary of War, communicated to you in my letter of the 30th ultimo.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain of Engineers, in charge.*

MESSRS. RICE, BAIRD & HEEBNER,  
*S. W. cor. Ninth and Sampson streets, Philadelphia, Pa.*

NOTE. The copy of letter from Holly, Fields & Kent referred to in the above, will be found under date of March 23, 1859, and copy of letter from the agent of the Vermont Marble Company under date of June 29, 1859.

WEST RUTLAND, *July 15, 1859.*

DEAR SIR: Yours of the 2d instant was duly received. We have not the post office address of Messrs. Rice, Baird & Heebner, the contractors, so we can write them. We hope to hear from them soon.

We want them to visit our quarry, and would be very happy to see you with them. Will you please give me their address.

Very truly, yours, &c.,

F. NARRAND,  
*Agent Vermont Marble Company.*

M. C. MEIGS, Esq.,  
*Captain of Engineers, in charge.*

WASHINGTON, *July 19, 1859.*

DEAR SIR; Yours of the 15th received. Address Rice, Baird & Heebner, care of John Rice, Philadelphia, or Charles Heebner, Lee, Berkshire county, Massachusetts.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain of Engineers.*

F. PARKER, *Agent Vermont Marble Company,*  
*West Rutland, Vt.*

UNITED STATES CAPITOL EXTENSION,  
*Washington, July 5, 1859.*

SIR: Your letter of 7th June, to Mr. A. B. Young, architect, has been referred to me.

The contractors for marble for the Capitol extension have been notified that six months would be allowed them within which to furnish a satisfactory specimen of the marble which they may propose to furnish, under their contract for the columns of the Capitol extension.

It may be well for you to correspond with them, therefore, on the subject of your letter. I do not at present know enough of the Egremont marble to give an opinion upon its fitness for the Capitol extension porticoes.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,  
*Captain of Engineers in charge.*

CHARLES GOODALL, Esq.,  
*South Egremont, Massachusetts.*

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MURPHY, CHEROKEE COUNTY, N. C.,  
*July 18, 1859.*

DEAR SIR: Having seen by a letter from a Washington correspondent that you have lately been on a tour of exploration to the marble quarries, I would inquire if there would be any prospect of our furnishing any of them, as I think that our marble cannot be excelled in the Union, if in the world, although transportation is against us at present. If you will direct me how to send them, I will procure you samples, and forward.

What is the size of the monolith wanted, as I know that we can procure them, if we can only get them to the railroad, a distance of seventy miles.

Yours, respectfully,

WM. BEAL.

Captain MEIGS.

P. S. Hon. Mr. Clingman can give you some information in regard to our marbles, if now in Washington; and we now have here the artist who got out the two blocks from Hawkins county, Tennessee, for the Washington Monument, and who is well skilled in the nature of marble, both foreign and domestic, and he pronounces it the best he has ever seen.

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UNITED STATES CAPITOL EXTENSION OFFICE,  
*Washington, August 6, 1859.*

DEAR SIR: I inclose a copy of the advertisement for marble columns for the Capitol extension.

The Secretary of War has decided to give the contractors, Messrs. Rice, Baird & Heebner, six months from 1st July, 1859, to make

arrangements to procure these column shafts from American quarries; they can be addressed at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

I should be pleased to receive a specimen of your marble, if of as good quality as you suppose.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers, in charge of Capitol Extension, &c.*

Mr. WM. BEAL,

*Murphy, Cherokee county, North Carolina.*

NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, *August 20, 1859.*

DEAR SIR: I was to have sent you a specimen of marble some weeks since, but owing to the sickness of Mr. Bissell's family (my quarryman) I could not get him to prepare a specimen.

I send one to-day, however, in order to enable you to see what the composition of my marble is, as well as the grain and color. The specimen was taken from the opening that you saw first, and is from the top layer, or measure. It ought to have been taken further from the surface, for an average specimen. The color will improve as we go down. The delay, owing to the sickness and engagements of my man with his family, prevented me from doing differently, which I exceedingly regret.

Shall be in Washington before long, and will be pleased to see you.

Yours, most respectfully,

WILSON H. CLARK.

Captain MEIGS,

*Superintendent Capitol Extension, Washington.*

UNITED STATES CAPITOL EXTENSION,  
*Washington, August 25, 1859.*

DEAR SIR: Your letter of 20th instant is received. I have not as yet seen the specimen.

The result of all the examination of quarries was an order from the Secretary of War to give the contractors, Rice, Baird & Heebner, six months within which to furnish a satisfactory specimen of American marble, with evidence that the quarry from which it was taken would furnish the column shafts as monoliths.

It will, perhaps, be well to address Mr. John Rice, of Philadelphia, who, as one of the contractors, informs me that he has now this matter in charge, the other partners having left it to him.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

*Captain of Engineers, in charge.*

Hon. WILSON H. CLARK,

*New Haven, Connecticut.*

NEW YORK, *August 31, 1859.*

SIR: I have been informed that you have had difficulty in getting the marble large enough, and of the right quality, for the columns of the "Capitol extension."

If you have not concluded the contract for the columns, I can quarry and deliver the stone at Washington, and would like to give you an estimate for the whole, or part of them, either in one piece each column, or in two pieces.

The marble is from the Dorset mountain, Vermont, and is somewhat similar in appearance to the Italian marble. You have seen a quarry on the Dorset mountain, belonging to Messrs. Holly, Field & Kent, of similar quality; but our stone is in large masses, so that stone of thirty feet in length, and four feet in thickness, can be quarried.

If yet open for proposals please write sizes, &c., and I will forward to you an estimate.

For reference, I beg leave to refer to Captain G. W. Cullum, United States engineers, with whom I have had contracts, I believe, satisfactory to him.

Yours, respectfully,

JOHN S. HOWELL,  
*No. 78 Jane street, New York.*

Captain M. C. MEIGS,  
*Corps of Engineers.*

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WASHINGTON, *September 5, 1859.*

DEAR SIR: I write by order of Captain Meigs, who is about leaving the city, in answer to your communication of 31st August.

The matter of furnishing marble for columns of Capitol extension is in the hands of the contractors, Messrs. Rice, Baird & Heebner, of Philadelphia, whom you had better address. They are by order of the War Department to furnish the shafts in single blocks of American marble, and have a certain time given them in which to furnish satisfactory specimens, with proof of capacity of quarry to deliver supply of one hundred shafts.

Respectfully yours,

CHARLES G. TALCOTT,  
*Assistant Engineer.*

JOHN S. HOWELL, Esq.,  
*No. 78 Jane Street, New York.*

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PHILADELPHIA, *December 23, 1859.*

DEAR SIR: On the 28th of May last we addressed a letter to Captain M. C. Meigs, then in charge of Capitol extension, asking permission to furnish the columns in single shafts, from any other quarry or quarries, upon the same terms and price as specified in our supplemental contract, to be approved by the engineer in charge of the work. On the 30th June, 1859, we were notified that our proposition of 28th

May was accepted, and six months was allowed us, from 1st July, 1850, to furnish samples. The samples are in your office, numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, of which you have a memorandum. If any of the samples meet your approval, you will please advise us at your earliest convenience. We will also add, if you desire our opinion as to the capacity of all or either of the quarries, we will cheerfully give it to you, or any other information you may require.

Very truly yours, JOHN RICE.

For RICE, BAIRD & HEEBNER.

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Capt. Top'l Eng's, in charge Cap'l Ext'n Wash., D. C.*

OFFICE U. S. CAPITOL EXTENSION,

*Washington, December 29, 1859.*

SIR: I have received your letter of the 23d instant. It arrived this morning, and is postmarked the 28th instant.

Before I can definitely determine upon the selection of a sample of marble for the Capitol columns, it will be necessary for me to know the abilities of the different quarries from which samples are shown, to furnish them.

I shall be obliged to you, therefore, for your opinion on this subject with regard to all of the six samples deposited at this office. Please be particular in stating the time that will be required in each case.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Capt. Top'l Eng's, in charge Capitol Extension.*

Mr. JOHN RICE, for Messrs. Rice, Baird & Heebner,

*Philadelphia, Penn.*

WAR DEPARTMENT,

*December 27, 1859.*

SIR: The Secretary desires that you will furnish him with a copy of a letter addressed, last summer, by Captain M. C. Meigs to Messrs. Rice, Heebner & Baird, of Philadelphia, granting them six months extension of time on their contract for columns, as well as of their reply to that letter.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. R. DRINKARD,

*Chief Clerk.*

Captain WILLIAM B. FRANKLIN,

*Topographical Engineers, in charge of Capititol Extension.*

OFFICE U. S. CAPITOL EXTENSION,

*Washington, December 28, 1859.*

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith, in compliance with the request of the honorable Secretary of War, a copy of the letter of Capt.

M. C. Meigs, superintendent of the Capitol extension, to Messrs. Rice, Baird & Heebner, dated June 30, 1859, announcing to them that six months from July 1 last were given them in which to furnish specimens of American marble from which they would agree to supply monolithic shafts for the Capitol columns, and to produce satisfactory evidence that the quarries will furnish the shafts.

I cannot find on the files of this office any answer from Messrs. Rice, Baird & Heebner, to this letter of Captain Meigs; but they have practically answered it by bringing to the office specimens of six different marbles for examination and test, and have expressed themselves ready to furnish the shafts from any one of these specimens.

I have had five of them tested as to their capability of resisting crushing, but am not prepared now to say that any one of the six specimens would furnish proper columns for the Capitol, nor indeed do I know what satisfactory evidence can be furnished by the contractors that the quarries will furnish the columns.

This point seems to be the most serious; for, if the quarry selected should give out, the delay and expense to the government would be enormous. The time required will be a serious item, even supposing that the quarry can furnish the whole number. On these points the contractors have as yet given no information, but rely upon the report on the whole subject made to the department on June 22, 1859, by Captain Meigs.

In deciding this question, I shall have to be guided by the same report, as I have never seen any of the six localities from which the specimens shown to me have been taken, unless the department wishes me to visit the localities.

The specimens received by me are the following, viz:

Mo. 1. Rutland, Vermont; No. 2. Connolly's, Maryland; No. 3. Dover, New York; No. 4. Dorset Mountain, Vermont; No. 5. Danby, Vermont; No. 6. Dorset Mountain, Vermont; (another quarry.)

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Captain of Topographical Engineers,  
In charge of Capitol Extension.*

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,  
*Secretary of War.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT, *December 31, 1859.*

Captain Franklin will visit the six different quarries, from which Messrs. Rice, Baird & Heebner have furnished specimens of marble shafts for the Capitol extension, and report to the department as soon as practicable whether either of the quarries from which specimens have been furnished can supply the whole number of columns required by their contract, the quality and capacity thereof, and the time it will require to furnish the same.

J. B. FLOYD,  
*Secretary of War.*

OFFICE U. S. CAPITOL EXTENSION,  
*Washington, December 29, 1859.*

SIR: I received this morning a letter from Messrs. Rice, Baird & Heebner, to which I have replied. I enclose copies of their letter and of my reply.

As this correspondence belongs to the subject upon which I addressed the department yesterday, I consider it proper to transmit it, in order to inform the department of the state of the case at present.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. FRANKLIN,  
*Captain of Topographical Engineers,  
In charge of Capitol Extension.*

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,  
*Secretary of War.*

PHILADELPHIA, *December 31, 1859.*

SIR: Your favor of 29th instant is received.

We will be in Washington some time next week, and will then give our opinion of the quarries.

We remain, sir, with great respect, your obedient servants,  
RICE, BAIRD & HEEBNER.

W. B. FRANKLIN,  
*Captain of Topographical Engineers,  
In charge of Capitol Extension.*

PHILADELPHIA, *January 5, 1860.*

DEAR SIR: Your favor of the 29th came duly to hand, and contents noted.

Rutland, Vermont, No. 1 samples in your office will produce the columns, and, in our judgement, in as short time as either of the other quarries—say from four to six years. No. 2, Baltimore company, we can say, from appearances, will produce them also. No. 3, Dover, will, in our opinion, produce the columns in from five to seven years. No. 4, 5, and 6 will probably require at least from eight to ten years. The samples of all the quarries are in your office.

We decline saying anything in relation to the strength, color, and quality of the marble, as these are questions to be decided by you.

Yours, respectfully,

RICE, BAIRD, & HEEBNER.

W. B. FRANKLIN,  
*Captain of Topographical Engineers,  
In charge of Capitol Extension.*

OFFICE U. S. CAPITOL EXTENSION,  
*Washington, January 7, 1860.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter from Messrs. Rice, Baird & Heebner, giving their opinions on the time re-

quired to furnish the columns for the Capitol extension, in monolithic shafts from the quarries, specimens of the products of which they have furnished for examination.

It appears that they consider from four to six years as the least possible time in which the columns can be furnished from any of the quarries named, and that there are only two quarries which will furnish them in that time. These are, 1st. Rutland, Vermont, and 2d. Connolly's, Baltimore county, Maryland.

The specimen of Rutland marble is not white; its general appearance is greenish, or white veined with green. In color it is not at all suitable for the building.

The specimen from Connolly's quarry is not uniform in color. It has in it a distinct dark vein, probably mica, and on the two sides of this the marble is of different shades, neither of which is a clear white. If the mica seam should occur in the column shafts, it would not only be very injurious to the appearance of the columns, but would weaken them very materially. The appearance of this marble in the Post Office extension is dirty, showing the effect of the weather upon it to be bad. This is the only one of the six specimens that I have seen in use.

No. 3, Dover, New York. This marble is the best of the six specimens in every respect, so far as I have been able to judge. It is white, fine-grained, and very compact and strong. In the opinion of the contractors, from five to seven years will be necessary for the procural of the columns from this quarry.

Nos. 4, 5, and 6, from Dorset mountain, Danby, and Dorset mountain, (another quarry,) all in Vermont. These three quarries can each furnish the columns in from eight to ten years. If this estimate is correct, they should, in my opinion, be ruled out of the competition without further investigation.

It is impossible for me to come to a correct conclusion on this subject, without more knowledge of the quarries in question than I now possess, and I consider it nearly, if not quite impossible, to learn anything definite about them by a visit so long as the snow is on the ground.

*But from the specimens which I have seen, and from such information as I can obtain, without making a personal inspection of the quarries, it is my opinion that the marble from the Dover quarry, New York, comes more nearly up to the required standard than any of the other specimens.*

It is also my opinion that the time required in all of these cases is too great, and that none of the specimens are proper to be placed in the building as columns, unless, perhaps, that from Dover quarry, for the uniformity of color of which I am not prepared to vouch, though the specimen is of an uniform white.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*Captain of Topographical Engineers.*

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,  
*Secretary of War.*



P. S. Nos. 4, 5 and 6, are also of uniform white color, but I have not considered them on account of the long time required to obtain the columns from their quarries.

Respectfully,

W. B. FRANKLIN,  
*Superintendent.*

OFFICE U. S. CAPITOL EXTENSION,  
*Washington, January 3, 1860.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the order of the Department of the 31st ultimo, directing me to visit the six quarries from which the contractors for the marble of the Capitol extension have exhibited specimens which they offer for the columns of the Capitol.

As these quarries are now covered with snow, I respectfully suggest that I be authorized to delay the visit until they are free from the snow.

The contractors inform me that they will be here during the present week, and, unless I hear from the Department again on the subject, I shall delay my visit to the quarries until there is a better prospect of examining them properly than there is now.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. B. FRANKLIN,  
*Captain of Topographical Engineers,  
In charge of Capitol Extension.*

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,  
*Secretary of War.*

WAR DEPARTMENT, *January 10, 1860.*

Approved:

J. B. FLOYD, *Secretary of War.*

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W. B. FRANKLIN

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